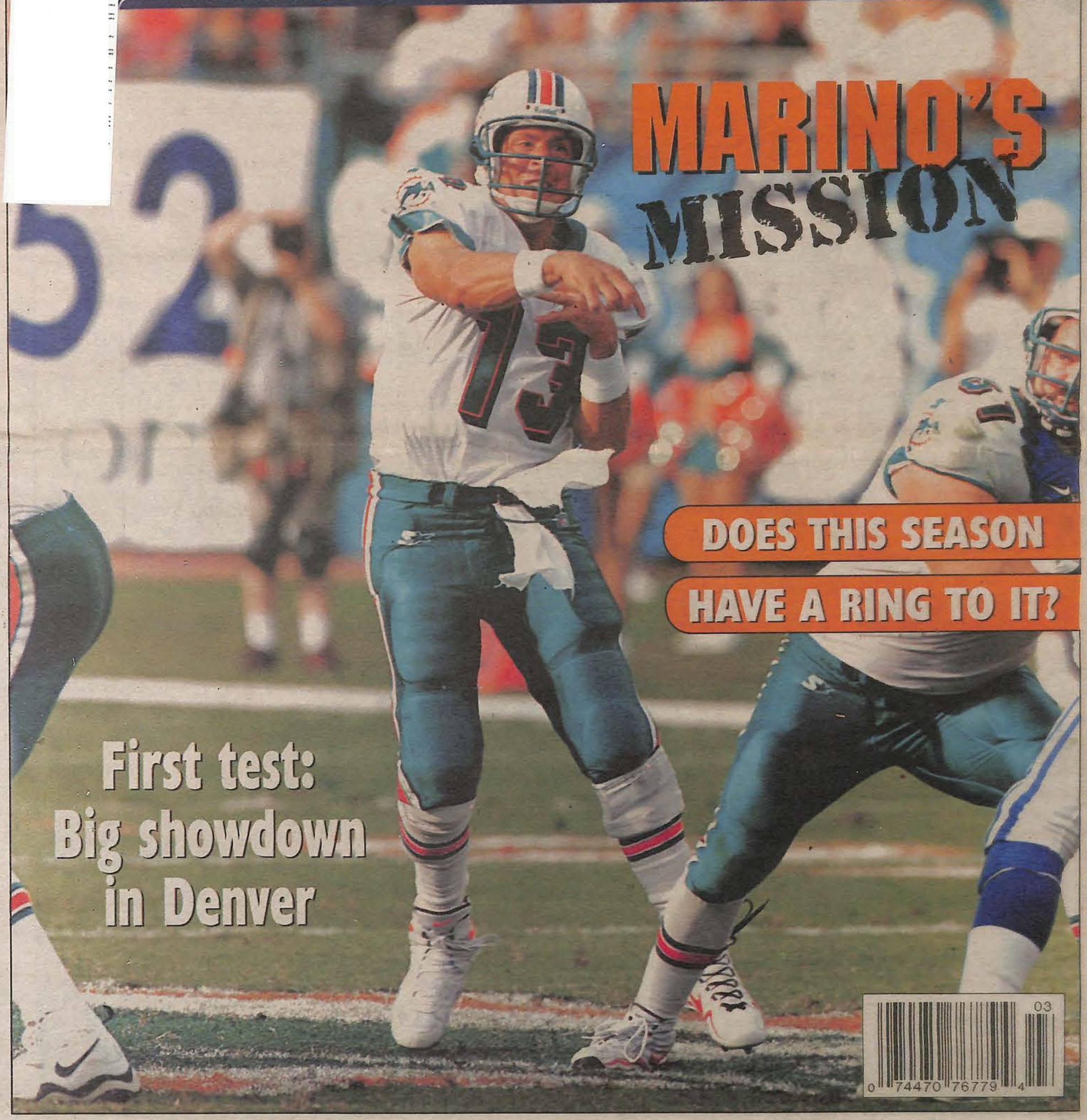
PAID PERIODICAL • MAILED SEPT. 7 • PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY.

Dolphin DIGEST

Volume 28, Number 3 • September 11, 1999 (741)

$2.50



MARINO'S MISSION

DOES THIS SEASON HAVE A RING TO IT?

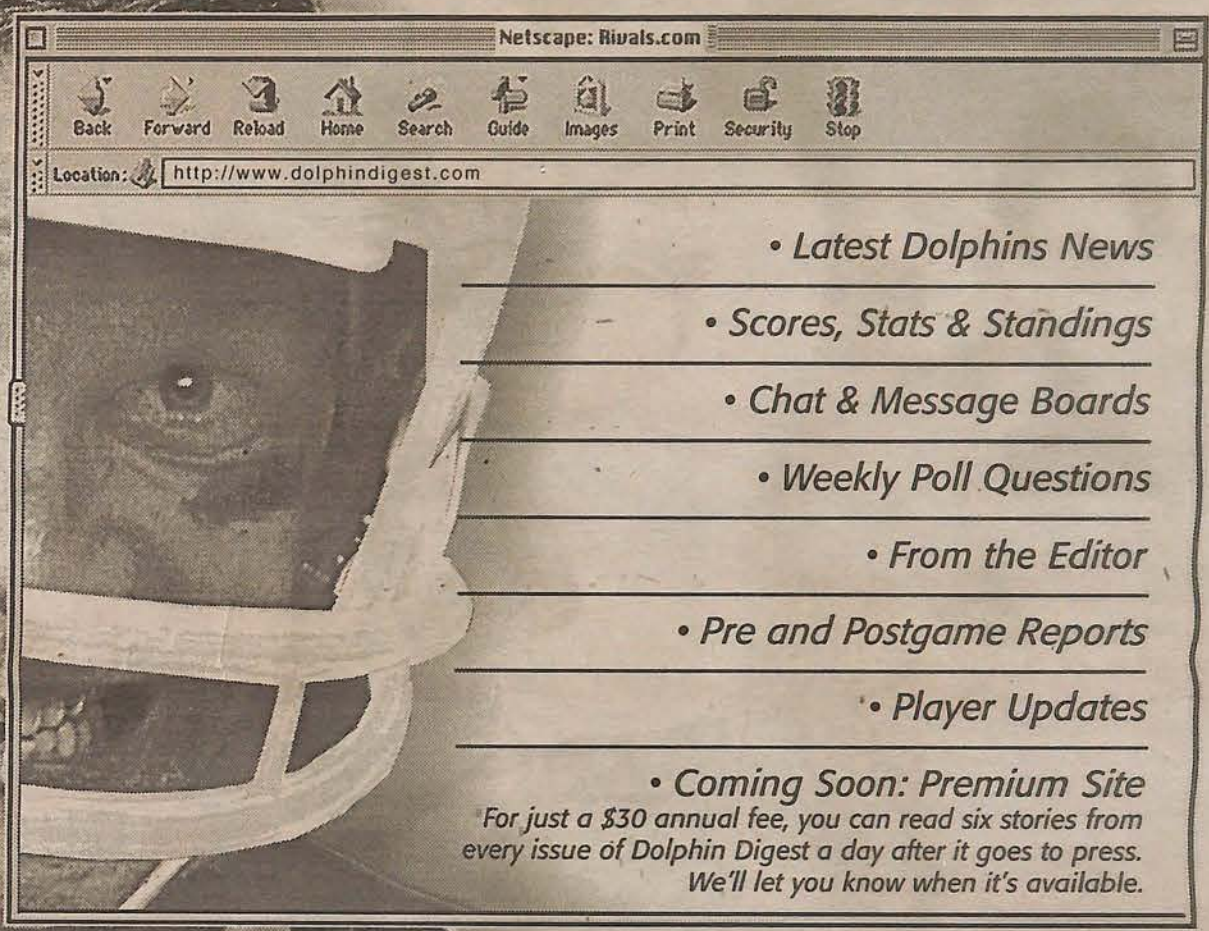
First test: Big showdown in Denver

0 74470 76779 4 03

IT'S HERE!

dolphindigest.com

CHECK IT OUT NOW!



- *Latest Dolphins News*
- *Scores, Stats & Standings*
- *Chat & Message Boards*
- *Weekly Poll Questions*
- *From the Editor*
- *Pre and Postgame Reports*
- *Player Updates*
- *Coming Soon: Premium Site*

For just a $30 annual fee, you can read six stories from every issue of Dolphin Digest a day after it goes to press. We'll let you know when it's available.

The ultimate site for Dolphins fans and the ideal complement for Dolphin Digest is now open. You've seen the rest, now experience the best.

powered by rivals.com™

Bookmark this site now! You'll be glad you did.

dolphindigest.com

Three keys to beating Broncos

The Miami Dolphins at Mile High Stadium on Monday night football: the perfect setting to open the 1999 season. The Dolphins and two-time Super Bowl champion

Tom Curtis
PUBLISHER

Denver Broncos will put on a good show in the NFL showcase game, with the winner getting a leg up on the competition in the AFC.

For the Dolphins, Monday night represents the chance to show the world that things will be different in 1999 and they are ready to move to the next level. Less than eight months ago, a 38-3 playoff loss in this same stadium ended the 1998 season and almost sent Jimmy Johnson into retirement.

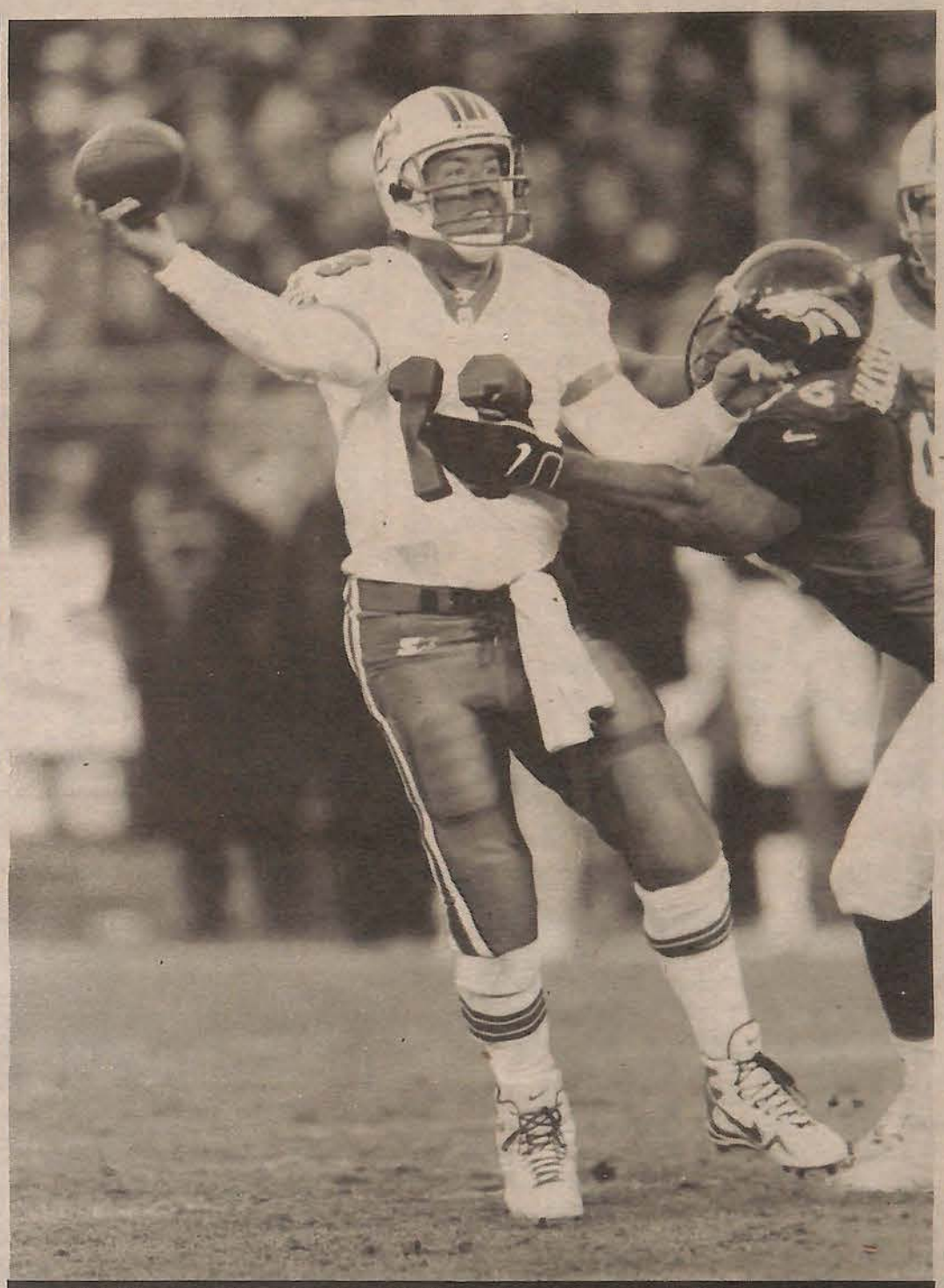
Johnson relented and now directs a team with the highest of expectations. Nothing short of a Super Bowl will be satisfactory to the Miami head coach; less could send him to the Florida Keys and back to TV. His team and quarterback Dan Marino, in his 17th season, feel the pressure to win now.

For the Broncos, this game represents the chance to show that things will be the same in 1999, despite the retirement of quarterback John Elway. Their goal is to be the first NFL team to win three consecutive Super Bowls, and head coach Mike Shanahan has the ego and confidence to believe it can happen.

Shanahan had the nerve to pull veteran quarterback Bubby Brister and replace him with second-year, inexperienced Brian Griese. Despite Brister's 4-0 record as Elway's replacement last year, Shanahan chose to gamble that Griese is ready to lead the Broncos to another Super Bowl victory. His team will feel the pressure with Griese at the helm, as Elway's number is retired at halftime of Monday's game.

The odds do not favor the Dolphins winning this football game. The Broncos have not lost a regular-season game at Mile High Stadium since December of 1995. Denver has won 24 straight at home and has a 39-9 overall regular-season record over the last three seasons. Throw in a 7-1 record in the playoffs, and you can see why the Dolphins are decided underdogs in this Monday nighter.

First and foremost, the Dolphins have to believe they can win. The mental feelings of the players and coaches is every bit as important as the game plan, injuries and comparison of talent. Overcoming the reality of what happened in the playoffs and the success the Broncos have had at home is not easy.



The Dolphins need to protect Dan Marino and avoid turnovers if they want to avenge last year's playoff loss at Denver. Digest Photo/JC RIDLEY

Talking a good game is easy, and I am sure you will read many quotes from Dolphins players who "say" they believe their team can win. It happened last January prior to the playoff game, but anybody who watched the team play that day knows Johnson and his players, deep down, did not think they could win.

And the same thing will happen this Monday night, whether Griese or Bubby or anybody is the quarterback, unless a confidence has been instilled by the coaches and accepted by the players. Of course, it is possible for the Dolphins to be mentally fit, play a great game, and still lose to the Broncos.

Secondly, the Dolphins must play error-free football this Monday night. Interceptions, fumbles and special teams mistakes must be kept to a minimum. A conservative game plan, allowing the defense to keep them in the game, is the best way to beat the Broncos. Winning the turnover battle is imperative for a Dolphins victory.

The Broncos would love to give the ball to Terrell Davis 35 times and let Griese throw the ball 15-20 times. This Dolphins defense stopped Davis cold in the 31-21 regular-season win at Pro Player Stadium, and that feat must be duplicated on Monday.

Griese will make mistakes and he must be forced into long-yardage situations. The big-play defense is the strength of this Dolphins team, and a victory over the Broncos almost certainly will include a defensive touchdown or several turnovers in Denver territory.

Not having the winning quarterback of the Super Bowl return to the team the next season is unprecedented in NFL history, so there is no way of knowing how the Broncos will react to Griese. But it is safe to say the Dolphins have a better chance to win without Elway as the signal-caller. Unlike Elway, Griese will play "not to lose" football and make mental mistakes.

Thirdly, the health of Cecil Collins is very important to what transpires in Denver. The rookie runner proved he is special in the preseason and the Dolphins need him in order to run the ball on the Denver defense, which ranked third in the NFL against the the run last season.

If the conservative game plan is to be successful, the Dolphins must rush for over 100 yards and control the ball on the ground. Collins is the only running back on the roster with the ability to make that happen. His ankle injury has improved and he is questionable for the game.

No matter what happens against the Broncos on Monday night, it is just the first of 16 regular-season games. A win for the Dolphins would be great for the organization and its fans, but does not guarantee success for the season. Similarly, a loss is not fatal and just makes the home game the next week against the Cardinals that much more important to the overall success or failure of the 1999 season.

DOLFANS!!!

"FEEL THE POWER" FOR LESS!

Embroidered Polos	$30
Car Flags	$12
Adult Tees	$14 & up
Team Hats	$ 8 & up
Replica Mini Helmets	$18

All Products-Officially Licensed

JDFinn, Inc.

1-888-436-0542

www.jdfinn.com

CALL FOR A FREE CATALOG OR FAX NAME & ADDRESS TO (561) 479-0614

Dolphin DIGEST

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 3 SEPTEMBER 11, 1999 (741) $2.50

On the Cover ...

Dan Marino already has all the NFL's major passing records; what he wants is a Super Bowl ring. The quest begins Monday when the Dolphins open their 1999 regular season with a visit to Mile High Stadium to face the defending champion Denver Broncos.

Cover Photos/KEN KEIDEL

THOMAS N. CURTIS ..... Publisher
ANDREW E. COHEN ..... Editor
KENNETH KEIDEL ..... Publication Director
ALAIN POUPART ..... Associate Editor
KEVIN KAMINSKI ..... Assistant Editor
EMILY ADAMS ..... Copy Editor
ARMANDO MATO ..... Creative Director
BILL DALEY, MARIA SCHEER ..... Design & Composition
BROOKE HAMMEAL PATTERSON ..... Advertising Representative
MARIAM MATO ..... Circulation Manager
IRELYS CRUZ ..... Ass't. Circulation Manager
MARIA ESTEVEZ ..... Executive Secretary

DOLPHIN DIGEST subscription information phone 1-800-334-4005.

DOLPHIN DIGEST is a member of Professional Football Publishers Association. Ken Keidel Advertising, National Ad Representative (305) 593-9169.

DOLPHIN DIGEST (ISSN 0744-3226) (USPS 947460) is published weekly from August through the first week in January (with the exception of the bye week(s) which the NFL determines prior to each season), last week in January, February, April/May, June and July by Dolphin Publishing Company, 8033 N.W. 36th Street, Miami, Fl. 33166 (305-594-0508). Periodicals postage paid at Miami, FL and additional offices. Annual subscription rate in USA 26 issues, $42.95. Newsstand rate $2.50 per issue. Trademark registered by Neosports, Inc. 1974 Copyright©. Reproduction whole or in part prohibited without permission from the publisher.

POSTMASTER: Send address change to DOLPHIN DIGEST, P.O. Box 526600, Miami, FL 33152-6600.

DOLPHIN DIGEST is published by Dolphin/Curtis Publishing Company, Thomas N. and Debra L. Curtis, owners.

Aloha Travel Presents

DOLPHINS FOOTBALL Weekends 99

Stay at the TEAM HOTEL!

from $349 per person based on double occupancy

- Two Nights at the Rolling Hills Hotel & Resort
- Lower Level Game Ticket
- Dolphins Souvenir
- Round Trip Game Transportation
- Round Trip Airport Transportation
- Private Player A utograph Session
- Private Tour of Pro Player Stadium
- Game Day Breakfast with Lecture By Coaching/Training Staff

Two Fabulous NCL Cruises!

DOLPHINS FOOTBALL CRUISE

Players sail on board! Sail the *Norwegian Majesty* 2-28-00 for 4 nts. from Miami to Cozumel and Key West $475.00 *prices per person based on quad occupancy*

NFL FOOTBALL CRUISE

NFL Stars, past & present! Sail the *Norway* 6-10-00 for 7 nts. from Miami to St. Martin, St.John, St.Thomas and a Private Island $700.00

Call Today for Specials on Airfare!

Reserve Your Spot For a Dolphin Hotel Package Now!

1-888-DOLFAN-1

www.dolphins-travel.com

Might as well play Denver early

The opener is finally here. We've been looking forward to this game since the schedule came out. Instead of people saying, "Get ready for the opener," they've been saying, "Get ready for Denver." It has really been a motivating factor all through training camp. My feeling is

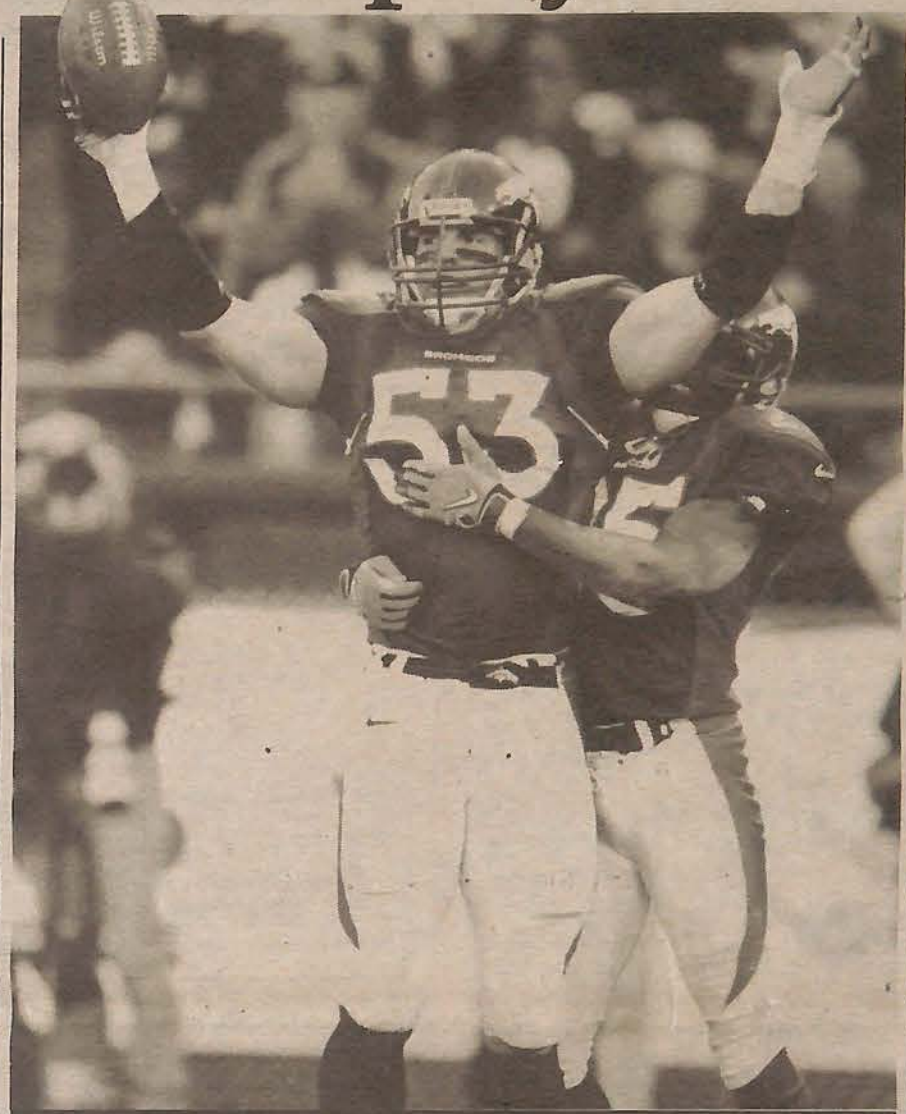
Jimmy Johnson
HEAD COACH

this: They were the best team in the league the last couple of years — if you're going to play them, you may as well play them right off the bat.

I think we've got what it takes to win the game. I really do. But I think we're going to have to play really well and we'll have to play the same way to beat a couple of teams in our division on the road.

By really well, I mean in all phases of the game. We can't afford to turn the ball over, and some of our guys have to step up and make plays. I think back to our victory over Denver last season at Pro Player Stadium. Lamar Thomas made three great catches. Dan Marino played extremely well. Our run defense was outstanding; our overall defense was outstanding. We held Terrell Davis to 29 yards, and Elway was 13-for-36. In order to beat them at their place, we've got to continue to have individuals step up and make plays.

As a coach, I love the big game. I love the national attention and everything that goes with it. But I also have to keep things in perspective, in that there's a lot of football to be played after the opener. With the division we play in and with all the challenges in front of us, a win at Denver would mean only one thing — we're 1-0, and nothing more.



The Denver offense gets most of the publicity, but linebacker Bill Romanowski and his defensive teammates have a knack for coming up with big plays. *Digest Photo/JC RIDLEY*

Now, that doesn't take away from the fact that it's going to be a special night.

Any normal game at Mile High Stadium with the Broncos the last few years has been as loud and exciting a game as you'd ever want to see at any site around the country. That's one reason why they've won so many in a row at home. But with the added atmosphere, defending Super Bowl champions and John Elway being honored at halftime, I'm sure it'll be even louder, if that's possible.

Can we get the crowd out of the game? Well, in this particular atmosphere, I don't know if the crowd's ever really going to get out of the game, because the Broncos have too good a team. If you get ahead of them, they've got the ability to catch up. I think more than concerning ourselves about getting the crowd out of it is we've got to make sure that we can handle crowd noise, we've got to be able to handle adverse situations.

It'll be interesting to see how the Broncos react without Elway. I think the biggest change is going to be the confidence of all of the other players that Elway would give them in the crucial times. Elway didn't play in four of the games last year when Bubby Brister was the quarterback, and now it will be Brian Griese. But the games weren't tight enough to make a difference. We've got to make sure that the game is close enough to where that little bit of doubt might creep in without Elway.

I'm not really surprised that Mike Shanahan decided to start Griese at quarterback. We've watched all of their preseason games, and we've watched Bubby Brister over the years. On top of that, we studied Griese and actually worked him out here at our practice fields when he was coming out of college.

We felt like there would be a change at quarterback; we just didn't know when. I'm sure that *Shanahan saw the same thing that* we all saw and he figured the change was going to be inevitable anyway, so he might as well do it now.

People have a tendency to make a lot out of playing against a young quarterback. They talk about how many different blitzes you're going to throw at a quarterback, etc. But Brian Griese is not a rookie, nor is he a normal second-year quarterback. He's been around football his entire life. He was in one of the top programs in the nation, won the national championship. He's been under pressure, and he showed poise under pressure.

See JOHNSON, page 6

WATCH UP TO 9 GAMES AT ONCE WITHOUT LEAVING YOUR SEAT!

HOOLIGAN'S FOOTBALL THEATER

HOOLIGAN'S...HEADQUARTERS FOR DOLPHINS FANS 16 YEARS RUNNING

More Big Screens, More Games, More Fun!

★ Sunday Nights: Flip your bartender for free drinks plus great prizes & giveaways from Heinekens

★ Monday Nights: Buy 1 Bucket of Miller Lite or Ice House & Get 1 Free, plus great giveaways

Ask about our FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE to and from Hooligan's

★ 9555 S. Dixie Hwy. (Dadeland Plaza) ★ 13135 SW 89 Pl (Briar Bay) ★ 15356 NW 79 Ct. (Miami Lakes)

JOHNSON, from page 5

So I think people might get carried away — and wrongly carried away — about we'll throw the kitchen sink at him.

Beating the Broncos all starts with Terrell Davis because everybody gangs up to try and stop the run. And their bootlegs and their play-action passes are big plays for them because you're trying to stop Davis. I don't see them using Davis any more now that Elway is gone. He's already rushed for 2,000 yards; I think they are maxing him out already.

People talk so much about Denver's offense; well, I think the Broncos defense is going to be even better this year with Dale Carter. It allows them to play tighter coverage. They are a high-blitz defense; they give you a lot of bad plays. They occasionally have given up some big plays themselves, but I think Dale Carter coming in at corner will help them prevent those big plays.

There are so many things for me to think about heading into this game. Our defense has got to show that they can play outstanding defense on the road. That's first on my list. When you get in an atmosphere as electric as what that's going to be, there's a real danger of a team steamrolling the other just because of the psychological momentum.

I have a very difficult time predicting low-scoring or high-scoring games for the simple reason that in early games, the kicking game and turnovers are the most crucial factors. You see more breakdowns in the kicking game, you see more big plays in the kicking game, and you see more turnovers in the early games than you do later on in the season.

I feel good about our defense right now. We've stayed relatively healthy and we've got some real playmakers. But, like I said earlier, we still have to prove we can play high-quality defense on the road. As for our offense, we're probably a little bit behind where I'd like us to be for the simple reason that we haven't had our top players working together. We've had a lot of minor injuries that have set us back. I'm concerned about that.

But that's something we can't control. We've got a huge task in front of us, and we need every player to step up and try to make a difference. I'm excited about this football team. I think we're all ready to get going.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

The Official 1998-99 Miami Dolphins Yearbook

MAKES A PERFECT GIFT!

Capture all the excitement and emotion from Jimmy Johnson's third year as coach of the Miami Dolphins.

80 colorful pages filled with photos of all your favorite players and every highlight from a memorable '98 season.

INSIDE YOU'LL FIND

• The emergence of the Dolphins Defense • The continued excellence of Dan Marino • The Big Plays. The crucial moments. The key wins. • A special section on the Dolphins Cheerleaders • A look ahead to the '99 season & much more!

The third in a collector's series. It's also the perfect gift. We'll even send the recipient a card announcing your gift. All of this for only $15 plus postage and handling.

Dol-Fan Club Members can order for only $10 per book.

Yearbook Order Form:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip+4 _____

Please send me ____ Yearbooks at: (check one) ☐ $15 ☐ $10

Fan Club Membership # _____

Mail Check or M.O. to: **Dolphins Yearbook • P.O. Box 526600 • Miami FL 33152**

DD

CREDIT CARD ORDERS CALL 1-800-334-4005

Drive a Winner!

DURANGO
2-Wheel & 4-Wheel Drive

The New Dodge

RAM TOUGH TRUCKS
Regular, Club & Quad Cabs

CARAVAN
America's Favorite Minivan

Spitzer Auto World Dodge

ALL NEW 2000 NEON

South Florida's Only Level 10 Dealer

We got 'em Bob!

30101 S. Dixie Hwy. • Homestead • 305-248-5880

Reg. No: MV-06820

Parmalee heads final cuts

The latest victim of Jimmy Johnson's youth movement is running back/special teams standout Bernie Parmalee.

One of the most popular players of the last seven years, Parmalee was released in the cutdown to 53, which was announced last Sunday. Thus ends a heartwarming story of a former UPS delivery man who beat the odds and not only made the roster, but also led the team in rushing in both 1994 and '95.

It came down to numbers. The Dolphins simply had too many quality young running backs to keep Parmalee, who will turn 32 on Sept. 16 and had lost a step. His role as the special teams captain and the leading tackler of that unit will not easily be filled.

"It was a tough decision," Coach Jimmy Johnson said of Parmalee's release. "He's a quality player and a quality person."

Parmalee ends his career with the Dolphins in 10th place on the team's all-time rushing list (1,959 yards) and with 100 special teams tackles. He rarely made headlines; he only made plays. It became clear that Parmalee probably was going to lose his spot on the team when he was taken off special teams a week ago.

The only real surprise on the cutdown to 53 came last Friday when Johnson released quarterback Craig Erickson. There was a time a few years ago when Johnson suggested that Erickson might be the player to someday replace Dan Marino.

But an elbow injury shelved Erickson for all of the 1998 season and he was never overly sharp during this preseason. The relationship between Erickson and Johnson goes back to the 1980s when Johnson recruited Erickson to the University of Miami.

"I like Craig personally," Johnson said. "But this is a business and I have to make a business decision."

Among the other final cuts, the most significant were wide receiver Nate Jacquet, rookie linebacker Bryan Jones and safety Brian Walker.

Jacquet contributed a year ago both as a receiver and a special teams player, but a toe injury kept him sidelined most of training camp.

Jones was a fifth-round draft choice who never did much to distinguish himself. Walker played well last season, but was hurt for part of training camp and lost out in the numbers game to Rayna Stewart.

Bernie Parmalee, who led the Dolphins in rushing in 1994 and 1995, lost his spot on the roster after the arrival of three rookie running backs.
Digest Photo/KEN KEIDEL

THE ROSTER MOVES

CUTDOWN TO 53

Waived

QB Craig Erickson
QB Dan Gonzalez
RB Bernie Parmalee
FB Kantroy Barber
FB Jamie Readers
WR Nate Jacquet
WR Kevin McKenzie
WR Derrick Steagall
LB Bryan Jones
LB Jimmy Clements
S Brian Walker
G Derrick LeVake
T Thomas Rayam
T Barry Stokes

Placed on IR

WR Lamar Thomas (shoulder)
DT Walter Scott (knee)
WR Kio Sanford (knee)

CUTDOWN TO 60

Waived

LB Derik Stevenson
TE Frank Leatherwood
RB Juan Johnson
CB Emmanuel McDaniel
DT Dwaine Robinson
G O'Lester Pope
G Mike Sheldon

Placed on IR

WR Robert Baker (knee)
T Joe Wong (knee)

Placed on PUP

LB Sammie Burroughs (back)

Webb ready to start working

Richmond Webb knew all along he was going to play for the Dolphins this season; he was just hoping his holdout would conclude with a long-term contract.

No such luck.

After missing training camp and all four preseason games, Webb gave in last Saturday and accepted a one-year tender for $3.45 million without a guarantee the Dolphins won't make him their franchise player again next year. He had been hoping for a five-year contract worth about $5.5 million a year. The best the Dolphins were offering was a three-year, $11.5 million deal.

As the team's franchise player, Webb had no choice but to sign, or sit out the season and not get paid. Common sense and dollars and cents prevailed.

"We wanted to try to work something out, but like I told you before, if it didn't work out, then I'd just sign the one-year deal and play it out," Webb said. "I'm not disappointed. It's a business. You've got to understand that going into it."

Webb is 31 years old and had hopes of making this the last contract of his career. Now he must play out this season and see if the Dolphins make him their franchise player again next season. If they don't, Webb becomes an unrestricted free agent.

The Dolphins have every intention of continuing to negotiate with Webb with hopes of signing him to a long-term deal during the season.

"We're happy Richmond is back with the team," said Coach Jimmy Johnson. "He's a very good player, and he's going to make a lot of money. In today's market, a lot of people want money up front, in hand, so they can put it in a bank and draw interest. That may be possible sometime down the road, but since we could not get something worked out, this is the best thing for both parties."

Webb had started a team-record 118 consecutive games until he missed the final five games of last season with an injury to his right triceps. The Dolphins received a two-week roster exemption on Webb, who was replaced as the starting left tackle during the preseason by Brent Smith.

Tanner dealt to Redskins

Leave it to Jimmy Johnson to help out a friend.

Realizing he had one too many quality defensive tackles, Johnson traded Barron Tanner to the Washington Redskins last week for a conditional sixth-round draft choice. The Redskins are coached by Norv Turner, one of Johnson's closest friends.

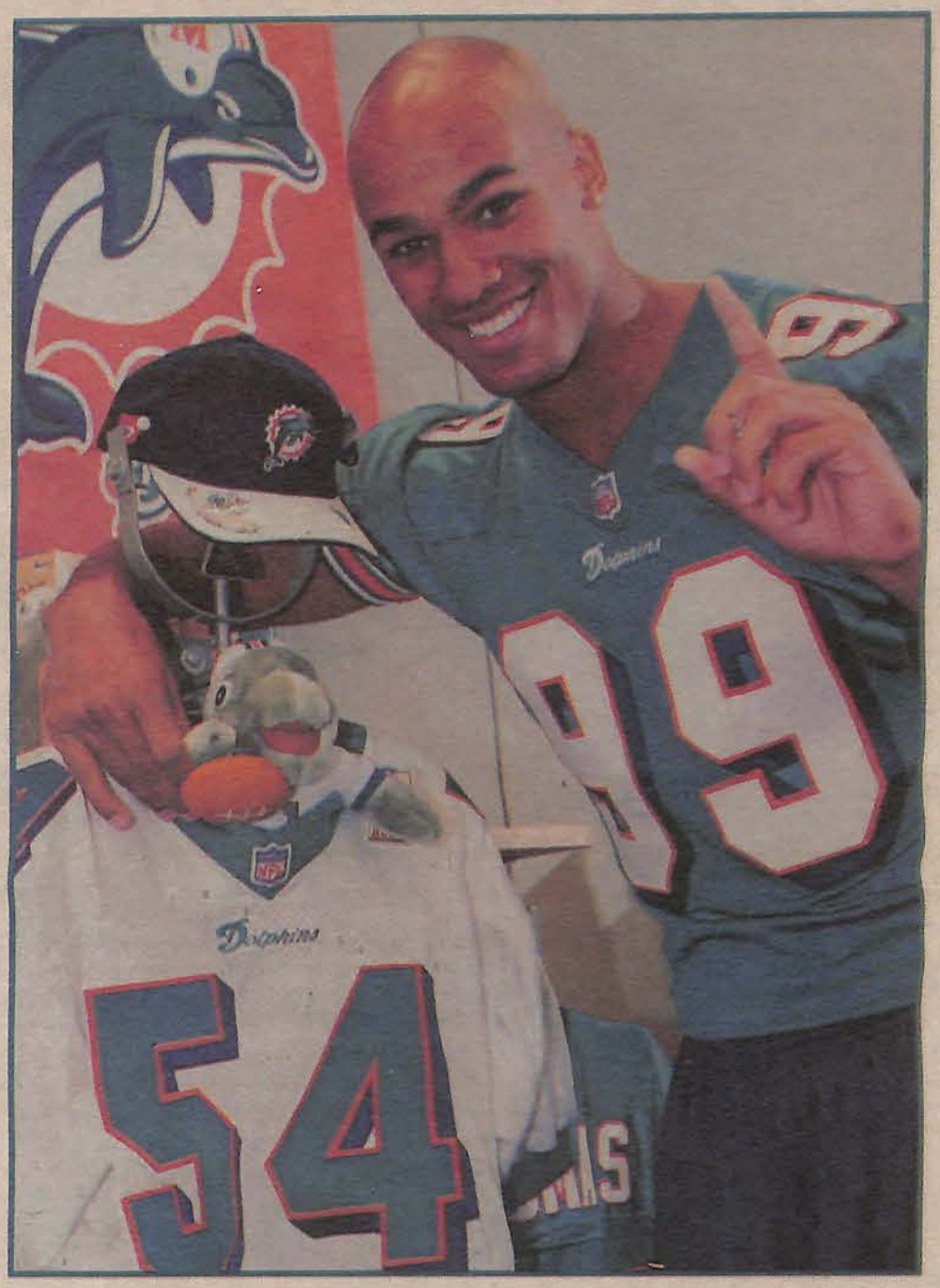
Tanner, a third-year player out of Oklahoma, became expendable with the emergence of free-agent defensive tackle Antoine Simpson. Tim Bowens and Daryl Gardener are the starters, and defensive ends Rich Owens and Lorenzo Bromell usually slide inside in passing situations. In addition, Kenny Mixon also can play some tackle.

Tanner played in 29 games over two seasons and finished with 52 tackles. He was a fifth-round draft choice in 1997.

SHOP WHERE THE PROS SHOP

CHECK OUT OUR GREAT PRICES!

Authentic Jerseys
Sideline Wear
Youth Sizes
Collectibles
and much more!



Dolphins PRO SHOP

CONTACT US AT

1-800-553-7152 OR WWW.MIAMIDOLPHINS.COM

DD1

Druckenmiller among new faces

The Miami Dolphins didn't wait long to find a third quarterback. Jim Druckenmiller, the 26th pick of the 1997 draft, was acquired Monday from the San Francisco 49ers for an undisclosed draft choice.

In his two seasons with the 49ers, Druckenmiller played in six games, starting one. He completed 21 of 52 passes for 239 yards with one touchdown and four interceptions. But this is a player with a tremendous upside, not to mention a powerful frame at 6 feet 5, 234 pounds.

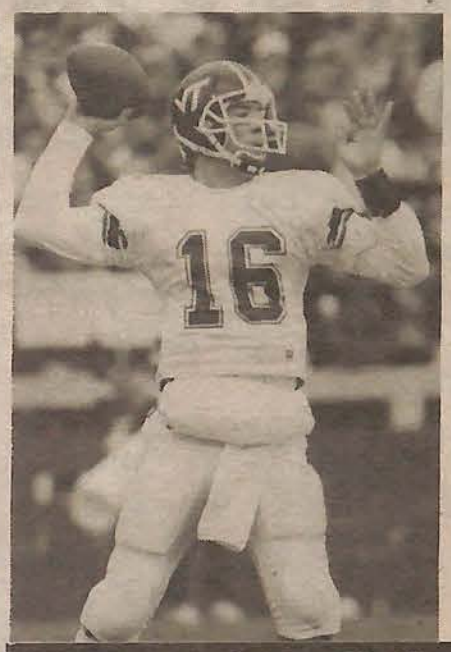
"I was always impressed with what Jim did at Virginia Tech," said Coach Jimmy Johnson. "He is a big quarterback with a strong arm who fits our style of offense, and he will give us depth at that position."

Druckenmiller was acquired for short-term insurance and long-term potential. As the third quarterback, something would have to happen to both Dan Marino and Damon Huard for Druckenmiller to play. It remains to be seen how he accepts that role.

Druckenmiller is one of 14 new players on the Dolphins' 53-man roster. It's an interesting combination, with five Dolphins draft picks, one Vikings draft pick (Dimitrius Underwood), four veteran free agents, two wide receivers who spent last season on the Dolphins' injured reserve list, and one legitimate long shot in defensive tackle Antoine Simpson.

That is a significant turnover when you consider that Jimmy Johnson liked the team he had coming back. But it is also an indication of how improved the Dolphins could be.

Of the draft picks, none are really a surprise. All three running backs — James Johnson, Rob Konrad and Cecil Collins — were almost sure things to make the team. Center Grey Ruegamer didn't exactly have a stellar camp, but made the team to provide depth behind Tim Ruddy and insurance, with Ruddy set to become a free agent after this season. Punter Brent Bartholomew never had any real competition and must still perform during the early part of the season to seal his job.



Quarterback Jim Druckenmiller (l.) and rookie punter Brent Bartholomew are among the several first-year Dolphins on the roster.

If you're looking for comeback stories, there are wide receivers Yatil Green and Larry Shannon. Who knew whether either would make the team, after Green suffered knee injuries in two straight training camps and Shannon in last summer's camp.

But both have beaten the odds and will now get a chance to contribute in a big way. For Green, just making the 53-man roster represents a huge feat for the former No. 1 pick. As recently as a month ago, there were those who doubted whether he could make it through camp without re-injuring his knee. But he persevered and the Dolphins can finally get a return on their huge investment.

Among the veteran free agents signed during the offseason, guard Kevin Gogan will start against Denver and has had an excellent camp; cornerback Greg Jeffries will see playing time as a reserve; defensive end Rich Owens will alternate with five other players at his position; and Tony Martin has been cleared of his legal problems and will be a huge factor in the offense.

Simpson, who spent one week on the practice squad last season and was re-signed by the team in February, was impressive enough to allow Jimmy Johnson to trade tackle Barron Tanner to Washington. He will back up starters Tim Bowens and Daryl Gardener.

THE NEW DOLPHINS

ROOKIES

Player	Pos.	Comment
Brent Bartholomew	P	Made cut, but has not overwhelmed
Cecil Collins	RB	Potential answer to Miami's ground woes
James Johnson	RB	If healthy, could provide punishing option
Rob Konrad	FB	Has good hands; needs blocking work
Grey Ruegamer	C	Tough camp, but showed enough to stay
Dimitrius Underwood	DE	Will slowly work way into line rotation

VETERANS

Kevin Gogan	OG	All-Pro brings mean streak to o-line
Jim Druckenmiller	QB	Gives Miami its third-string QB for 1999
*Yatil Green	WR	Incredible comeback from knee injuries
Greg Jeffries	DB	Brings experience, adds depth to DBs
Tony Martin	WR	Will be Marino's deep threat/go-to guy
Rich Owens	DE	Adds another sackmaster to loaded line
*Larry Shannon	WR	Big-play potential proved irresistible
Antoine Simpson	DT	Showed strength, playmaking ability

** Green and Shannon were both on injured reserve last season*

ROSTER BREAKDOWN

The 53-man roster by position

Quarterbacks	3
Running backs	6
Wide receivers	5
Tight ends	3
Offensive linemen	9*
Defensive linemen	9
Linebackers	7
Defensive backs	10
Kickers	2

** As of Sept. 6, the Dolphins had 54 players on the roster because of a two-week roster exemption for tackle Richmond Webb.*

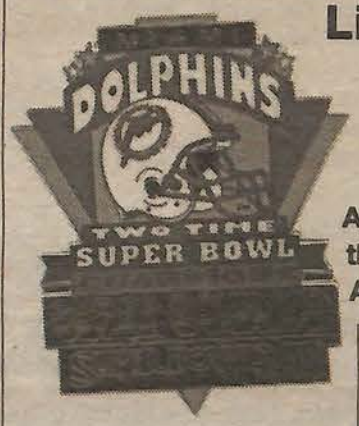
www.pigskinscoop.com

- Latest Football News
- The Best in Football
- Weekly Updates
- Test Your Skills
- Free Football Pool

WIN CASH PRIZES

www.pigskinscoop.com

DOLPHINS SUPER BOWL PINS



Limited Supply Available

Only $7.95 (includes postage)

Attractive aqua and orange pin honoring the victories in Super Bowls VII and VIII. A must for every die-hard Dolphins fan.

Send check to: Dolphin Digest, P.O. Box 526600 Miami, Florida 33152

JOIN A WINNER!

Be a part of the Official Miami Dol-Fan Club

Dol-Fans unite! The Dolphins are primed for a Super Bowl run, and the best way to be a part of the action is by joining the Miami Dol-Fan Club. Now in its fourth exciting season, the Dol-Fan Club is the perfect way to share in the thrills of a tenacious defense and an offense led by future Hall of Famer Dan Marino.

And this year is better than ever. More promotions. Chapters all over the country. Newsletters that will keep you up to date with everything that's happening. The Dol-Fan Club is a must for every diehard Dolphins fan.

AQUA LEVEL

Yearly Membership Fee: $35.00

- Dol-Fan Club T-shirt
- Dolphins football keychain
- Jason Taylor photo and welcome letter
- Team photo
- Dolphins bandana
- '99 Dol-Fan Club Pin
- Dan Marino photo collage
- Dolphins notepad
- Membership card
- Six newsletters

ORANGE LEVEL

Yearly Membership Fee: $80.00

• Golf shirt • Dolphins playing cards • Dolphins football keychain • Dolphins 1998-99 Yearbook • Dolphins highlight video • Jason Taylor photo and welcome letter • Team photo • Dolphins bandana • Leather Dolphins Wallet • '99 Dol-Fan Club Pin • Dan Marino photo collage • Dolphins notepad • Membership card • Six newsletters • *Training camp barbecue in year* 2000 • VIP Tailgate Party in year 2000 • Four in-season meetings with players, coaches and staff

FAMILY LEVEL

Yearly Membership for family of four: $125.00

• 4 T-shirts • 2 Dolphins football keychains • 1 Dolphins 1998-99 Yearbook • 2 Jason Taylor photos • 1 Jason Taylor welcome letter • 2 Dolphins notepads • 2 Dolphins bandanas • 2 Football card sets • 2 Dan Marino photo collages • 2 Dolphins pencils with helmet erasers • 1 '99 Dol-Fan Club Pin • 1 Highlight video • 2 Kid-sized vinyl footballs • 2 packs *Dolphins playing cards* • 2 *Team photos* • 1 Membership card • 10 Newsletters • Training camp BBQ in year 2000

Additional Children: $25.00 each

Kids Club

Yearly Membership Fee: $10.00

- Kids Club T-shirt
- Kid-sized vinyl football
- Dolphins pencil with helmet eraser
- Football card set
- Jason Taylor photo and welcome letter
- Team photo
- Membership card
- Four newsletters

SPONSORED BY

FIRST UNION

SPORTS CHANNEL

Pizza Hut.

DOL-FAN CLUB REGISTRATION & RENEWAL FORM

(Please complete separate form for each registering member)

I would like to register for the following level:

☐ Kids Club @ $10 per year (12 & under) **(plus $3.00 P & H = $13.00 total)** _____

KIDS SHIRT SIZE: ☐ Small ☐ Med. ☐ Lg. ☐ XL

☐ Aqua Level @ $35 per year **(plus $5.00 P & H = $40.00 total)** _____

ADULT SHIRT SIZE: ☐ Med. ☐ Lg. ☐ XL ☐ XXL

☐ Orange Level @ $80 per year **(plus $5.00 P & H = $85.00 total)** _____

MEN'S SHIRT SIZE: ☐ Med. ☐ Lg. ☐ XL ☐ XXL

WOMEN'S SHIRT SIZE: ☐ Sm. ☐ Med. ☐ Lg. ☐ XL

☐ Family Level @ $125 per year **(plus $8.00 P & H = $133.00 total)** _____

CIRCLE SHIRT SIZES (Family Level Only)

Adult #1: M L XL XXL **Kid #1:** S M L XL

Adult #2: M L XL XXL **Kid #2:** S M L XL

Residents in Canada and Mexico add $5.00 _____

All other residents outside the U.S. add $20.00 _____

TOTAL _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone # _____

☐ Check here if renewal • Membership # _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

☐ Check or money order enclosed made payable to Miami Dol-Fan Club.

Charge my: ☐ MC ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐ Disc

Name on Credit Card _____

Card # _____ Exp. _____

Mail with payment to:

MIAMI DOL-FAN CLUB • P.O. Box 526600 • Miami, FL 33152

DDY

CREDIT CARD ORDERS CALL TOLL FREE: 1-800-334-4005 OR FAX: (305) 477-1346

DOLPHIN DATA

Nat Moore to join Dolphin Honor Roll

Nat Moore, who led the Dolphins in receiving a team-record six times, will become the 12th member of the Dolphin Honor Roll this season.

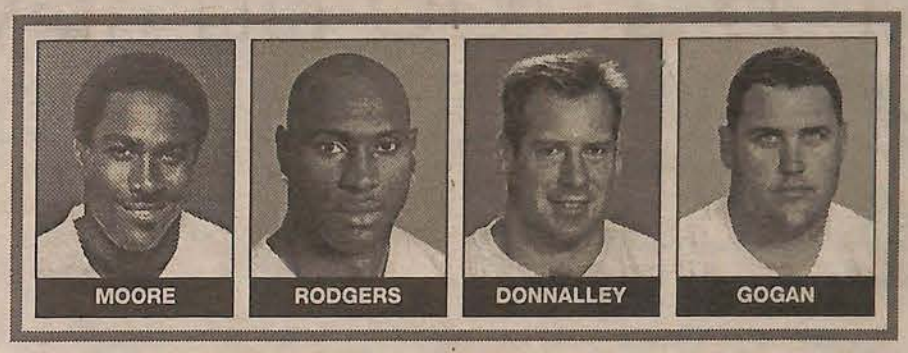
Moore, who will be honored at Pro Player Stadium at the Dolphins-Colts game on Dec. 5, is third on the Dolphins' all-time list for both catches (510) and receiving yardage (7,547).

Moore, a color analyst for Dolphins preseason games, started 124 games in his career and was named to the Pro Bowl in 1977 when he caught 52 passes for 765 yards and 12 TDs.

The other members of the Honor Roll include: Founder **Joe Robbie** (inducted in 1990); fullback **Larry Csonka** (1990); quarterback **Bob Griese** (1990); center **Jim Langer** (1990); wide receiver **Paul Warfield** (1990); linebacker **Nick Buoniconti** (1991); the 1972 Undefeated Team (1992); guard **Larry Little** (1993); center **Dwight Stephenson** (1994); guard **Bob Kuechenberg** (1995); and head coach **Don Shula** (1996).

HARRIS HEROICS: The Dolphins were ready to put linebacker **Anthony Harris** on injured reserve, but he has made a remarkably rapid recovery from groin surgery and now could be back as soon as the Oct. 4 Monday night game against Buffalo. Harris originally had been expected to be sidelined until the beginning of November, at the earliest.

MISSED FLIGHT: Linebacker **Derrick Rodgers** missed the Dolphins' charter to Green Bay and joined the team after catching a commercial flight. He was benched for the game.


MOORE RODGERS DONNALLEY GOGAN

RETURN DUTIES: The Dolphins have told cornerback **Jerry Wilson** to get ready to return kickoffs in case something happens to either **John Avery** or **Brock Marion.** Wilson hasn't returned kicks since his rookie year in Tampa Bay in 1995. "Coach Johnson talked to me about it, and he was firm in telling me about the consequences if I didn't hold on to the ball," Wilson said. "It's something that I haven't done for a couple of years, but it's not new. I can do it."

PICKED UP: Cornerback **Emmanuel McDaniel,** among the players cut when the Dolphins got down to the 65-player limit (minus NFL Europe exceptions), was claimed by the New York Giants the next day. But McDaniel was waived when the Giants made their final cuts.

WAIVER WIRE: Among the other players cut as teams got down to the roster limit of 53 last Sunday were former Dolphins **Iheanyi Uwaezuoke** (Carolina), **Jim Kitts** (Green Bay) and **Kirby Dar Dar** (Kansas City). Meanwhile, running back **Tyrone Wheatley** beat out former Heisman winner **Rashaan Salaam** to win a spot on the Oakland roster.

LAMAR'S LAMENT: Lamar Thomas' shoulder injury eventually got the best of him as he was put on injured reserve. Thomas, who initially dislocated his left shoulder in the preseason opener against New Orleans, tried to play against Green Bay but wound up with no catches. "The doctors advised us and Lamar to see if he could go," Johnson said. "But Lamar felt he really couldn't go 100 percent, so everybody was in agreement after the game that he needed to have the surgery." Thomas went under the knife Monday.

UNDERWOOD'S DEBUT: The much-anticipated debut of **Dimitrius Underwood** took place in the preseason finale against Green Bay, but it was cut short by a shoulder injury. Underwood had looked very impressive in practice in the days leading up to the Green Bay game. Even more so considering he didn't play all of last season because of a high-ankle sprain. "It felt real good," Underwood said of his playing time against Green Bay. "It felt so good that I'm not even going to let this (shoulder injury) bother me. I felt all right, but nowhere near 100 percent. I've got a lot of work ahead of me. I'm going to put the work in, pay my dues and take care of business."

Two starting right guards for Dolphins

Kevin Donnalley or Kevin Gogan? How about both.

Jimmy Johnson has decided to rotate starting assignments at right guard between the two veterans, with Gogan getting the first shot against Denver. It's an unusual move, but one that Johnson hopes will pay dividends.

"We feel that they are both outstanding players, and it's in the best interest of the team that we split the time and the starting role with them," Johnson said. "Because they are veteran players, I don't think it will have a negative effect."

Johnson indicated that both players would see action every game, although how the playing time will be divided remains unclear.

The last time the Dolphins rotated starting offensive linemen was in 1992, when Jeff Dellenbach and Mark Dennis shared the right tackle duties.

Injury Update ...

Rookie running back **Cecil Collins** continues to make progress with his injured ankle, and there is a good possibility he could be in the lineup when the Dolphins open the regular season Monday night at Denver.

Collins, who was hoping to resume practicing Thursday, said last weekend his recovery was "coming along real good."

Cornerback **Patrick Surtain** (groin), safeties **Calvin Jackson** (knee) and **Shawn Wooden** (thumb), and defensive end **Dimitrius Underwood** (dislocated shoulder) all sustained injuries in the preseason finale against Green Bay. Underwood will be out 2-3 weeks, while the other three could be ready for the season opener.

Fullback **Stanley Pritchett,** who sprained his left knee against Detroit, probably won't be ready for the Denver game but could be back in time for the Sept. 19 home opener against Arizona.

Several players who sat out the preseason finale against Green Bay to nurse injuries are expected to be ready for the opener. The list includes: **O.J. McDuffie** (thumb), **Terrell Buckley** (foot), **Karim Abdul-Jabbar** (knee) and **Robert Jones** (ankle).

James Johnson, who hasn't seen action since the Tampa Bay scrimmage Aug. 7, was hoping to resume practicing this week.

MARK HIGGS

Opening-day tidbits

- The Dolphins' current seven-game winning streak on opening day is the longest in the NFL. Denver has the second-longest streak at four. The Dolphins can match the third-longest winning streak in NFL history with a victory at Denver, but they have a long way to go to match Dallas' 17 straight opening-day wins (1965-81).
- The Dolphins' winning percentage of .561 on opening day ranks seventh in the AFC and 13th in the NFL.
- Dan Marino's 473 yards passing against New England in Week 1 in 1994 ranks as the second-best opening-day performance, behind Norm Van Brocklin's 554-yard effort in 1951.
- Irving Fryar's 211 yards receiving in the 1994 opener is tied for the third-best opening-day performance, behind the 241 yards amassed by Dallas' Frank Clarke in 1962 and the 212 compiled by Washington's Hugh Taylor in 1947.
- The Dolphins have two of the top nine opening-day rushing performances in the 1990s. Sammie Smith (1990 vs. New England) is eighth with 159 yards, while Mark Higgs (1991 vs. Buffalo) is ninth with 146 yards.
- The Dolphins have opened on Monday night three previous times. They won at Cleveland 27-23 in 1992; won at Buffalo 30-21 in 1976; and lost at home to Oakland 31-21 in 1975.

DON'T FUMBLE YOUR TRAVEL PLANS.
SCORE BIG WITH TIVOLI!
"THE OFFICIAL TRAVEL AGENCY OF THE MIAMI DOLPHINS"

WE SPECIALIZE IN PACKAGES FOR DOL-FANS!!

BUSINESS TRAVEL
Bargain Finder Plus
Meeting, Convention & Group Planning
Travel Management Reports

LEISURE TRAVEL
Customized Vacation Planning
Cruise & Tour Specialists
Airline Tickets Worldwide

TIVOLI
TRAVEL SERVICE

YOUR FULL-SERVICE AGENCY FOR OVER 36 YEARS!

110 Southeast Sixth Street, Suite 190 • Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301
1-888-388-9253 • (Fax) 954-463-5198
954-463-3620

FOR PEOPLE WHO THINK THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN A PAYCHECK.

If you're a young man or woman looking at a humdrum future, there's a challenging alternative–the Army.

Not just the more than 200 skills to choose from, but the lifestyle. The chance to travel, to become fit and trim and exercise your mental muscles, too. To do things you didn't think you could do. To be proud of yourself and your country.

And you get a pretty good paycheck, too.

305•594•8558

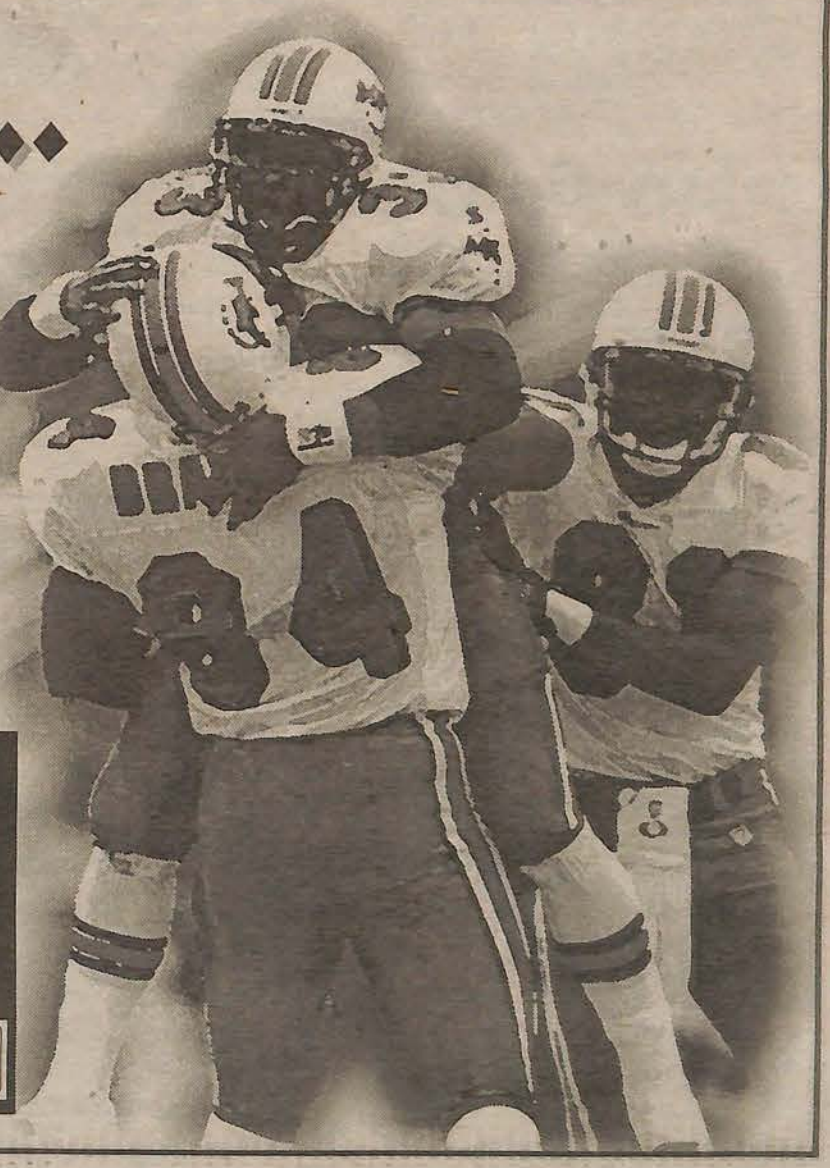
ARMY. BE ALL YOU CAN BE.®
www.goarmy.com

KEEP IN TOUCH...
WITH THE DOLPHIN DIGEST HOTLINE!

1-900-860-1972

Up-to-the-minute Dolphins news, insights on each game and injury reports

$1.49 per minute



Now you can use your credit card to get the same great info at the same price

Call Toll Free: 1-888-297-9366

VISA — Call from any touch tone phone including businesses, hotel rooms, cell phones and 900# blocked phones — MasterCard

SUPER BOWL BLUEPRINT

By KEVIN KAMINSKI
Assistant Editor

Considering the way Miami was treated the last time it passed through Atlanta — a 38-16 thrashing at the hands of the Falcons to end the 1998 regular season — one might assume the Dolphins would have reservations concerning a return trip to the Georgia Dome this season.

Well, not yet. But that's certainly the idea.

Reservations, in fact, are exactly what Jimmy Johnson's team hopes to have in Atlanta come Jan. 30, 2000.

Under the booking: AFC Champions.

With one of the league's brightest young defenses, an offense which has the potential to be vastly improved through its offseason additions, a hungry veteran behind center, and a head coach fiercely committed to his team — this after nearly walking away from the game in January — Miami has as good a shot as any AFC club to play for the world championship for the first time since Dan Marino's memorable 1984 sophomore season.

But make no mistake, several factors have to come together for the Dolphins to take the field at the Georgia Dome for Super Bowl XXXIV. To that end, the staff of *Dolphin Digest* has outlined 10 keys to the upcoming season — scenarios which must occur, or which the team must avoid, for Miami to book Atlanta reservations in late January:

The brilliant preseason showing of rookie Cecil Collins has given the Dolphins hope their running game could make big strides in 1999. *Digest Photo/KEN KEIDEL*

1 Don't take No. 13 for granted.

It's en vogue these days to suggest that the Dolphins need their future Hall of Fame quarterback to be more of a glorified role player than the corner piece to this year's offensive puzzle.

While there is some merit to such a contention — Miami was 6-2 when he threw for under 200 yards in 1998; 1-3 when he finished with over 300 yards passing — it's also ludicrous to think that a ground-oriented attack somehow runs on auto pilot.

Or that the Dolphins could make a title run even without Marino at quarterback.

With all due respect to backups Damon Huard and Jim Druckenmiller, a healthy Marino, even in his 17th season, remains the best engineer for any Miami drive through the regular season and playoffs.

While it may be ironic that the Dolphins *don't* want to rely on the arm of the man

Breaking down keys to Dolphins' hopes for the 1999 season

who holds every major NFL passing mark, it's also fact. If the running game is working, Marino won't have to air it out for Miami to succeed.

But there will also come a time — make that several times — during the course of a season when Marino is called upon to make the kind of play that only he can deliver. That, and his fiery, respected leadership, are among the qualities which make Marino an invaluable part of the big picture in 1999.

2 Get the ground game up and running.

How many times during the course of Marino's career have we heard veiled summer threats to beef up the ground game, only to watch the season hinge on a wing — namely Marino's — and a prayer?

This year, especially, the Dolphins can't afford another empty promise.

It has been 12 seasons since Miami averaged, as a team, better than 4.0 yards per carry. This offseason was designed, in large part, to change that. Why else would J.J. add veteran guard Kevin Gogan, tight end Hunter Goodwin, and a stable of rookie running backs?

With the emergence of fifth-round selection Cecil Collins as a bona fide difference-maker, there is now optimism to match the intent.

Patience, however, will also be required. Aesthetically speaking, the 3-yards-and-a-cloud-of-dust approach won't compare to a Marino-to-Duper air show. But if Collins proves to be the real deal, the ground forces gather steam as the year progresses, the offense controls the clock, and a fresher defense capitalizes by wreaking havoc, the season itself could be something to behold.

3 Show some backbone in short-yardage situations.

With Todd Doxzon no longer on the roster, and thus unavailable to replace Marino and run the fabled option, can the Dolphins devise a new strategy for securing those 1 or 2 crucial yards which proved so elusive in 1998?

Just the fact that J.J. would even consider the Doxzon experiment tells you how desperate the team became in short yardage last season. For the record, Miami was abysmal, converting a combined 18 of 39 third-and-1 or third-and-2 situations.

The same faces expected to bolster the ground game will be counted on to dig a little deeper in the trenches and begin making short-yardage statements. The Dolphins, quite frankly, were bullied far too often. It's a reputation with

See BLUEPRINT, page 15

All NFL, MLB, & NHL TEAMS IN STOCK FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY!!

CASEWORKS INTERNATIONAL INC.

OFFICIALLY LICENSED NFL PRODUCT TM

TOTALLY NEW!!!

OUR GENUINE NFL CABINET STYLE JERSEY DISPLAY CASES ARE AVAILABLE IN BLACK OR WOOD FINISH. $199.99

Genuine Miami Dolphins Logo Display Cases

THESE ARE THE CASES THE PLAYERS BUY!!

OFFICIALLY LICENSED AND PERMANENTLY ENGRAVED
AUTHORIZED DEALER
UP CLOSE DISTRIBUTORS
1-800-335-5434
LOCAL : 305-817-8889

ULTIMATE DOLPHINS FOOTBALL CASE WITH GOLD RISERS.-NFL-RP109 $59.99

DELUXE ENGRAVED MINI HELMET $29.99
DELUXE ENGRAVED FULL SIZE HELMET $99.99

MEMORABILIA FOR DISPLAY ONLY • COPYRIGHT 1999 UP CLOSE DISTRIBUTORS

2000

Miami Dolphins Cheerleaders

ONLY $12.95
Plus $2.50 Shipping & Handling

Miami Dolphins Cheerleaders Swimsuit Calendar

2000

Calendars will be mailed beginning in early September

CALENDAR ORDER FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

No. of Calendars @ $12.95 each $ _____
Shipping & Handling ($2.50 per calendar) $ _____
Total $ _____

Mail Check or Money Order (Payable to Curtis Publishing)
To: Miami Dolphins Cheerleaders
P.O. Box 526600 • Miami, FL 33152

ON SALE NOW! Credit Card Orders Call: 1-800-334-4005

BLUEPRINT, from page 13

which the offense will continue to be saddled until it proves otherwise.

"Because of our offseason acquisitions, and some of the guys up front with yet another year of experience, you'll see a difference," tight end Troy Drayton said. "The other thing is, guys are tired of hearing about what a horrible short-yardage team we are. We have something to prove. Last year was last year. We'll show them. The motivation to be a good third-down team is definitely a factor."

4 Bottle some of the intensity which seemed in abundance at home last season, and take it on the road.

There is no rational explanation for how the Dolphins, especially on defense, could play so flawlessly at home for much of 1998 — but blow fourth-quarter leads against Jacksonville, Buffalo and New England on the road.

The only thing certain is that it has to change. Miami, 3-5 away from Pro Player Stadium last season, must finish what it starts on the road.

"It's more mental than anything," linebacker Zach Thomas said. "It's tougher to play on the road because of crowd noise and things like that. The defense maybe has a tendency to panic when the offense has a big play. But we can't look at it that way. If we want to be a Super Bowl team, we better win on the road."

5 The defense can't rest on its laurels.

Coming off a season in which it led the NFL in fewest points allowed (265), topped the league in interceptions (29), ranked third overall in total yards surrendered (277.2), pitched two shutouts and had two other games without allowing a touchdown, it would be easy for this young, talented Miami defense to buy into the hype that it truly is something special.

To the casual observer, this defense is special, perhaps the best the Dolphins have had since a certain group of "No Names" were bleeding opposing offenses dry at the Orange Bowl.

But 11-year defensive end Trace Armstrong issued this preseason challenge for those Dolphins defenders feeling the slightest bit invincible.

"We have to be better in 1999 just to be as good as we were last year," Armstrong said. "And we have to be a lot better if we hope to improve even slightly on last year. Why? We're not going to sneak up on teams defensively anymore. Trust me. Last year doesn't mean anything."

6 Put a lid on the big plays yielded in crucial situations last season.

If the defense could be faulted for anything in 1998, it had to be an occasional sense of dreadful timing. Breakdowns in the secondary occurred at the worst possible moments last year.

Keenan McCardell beat cornerback Terrell Buckley on a 56-yard touchdown with under three minutes left in Jacksonville's comeback win. Safety Brock Marion misjudged a 48-yard touchdown reception by Eric Moulds at Buffalo which turned the tide of that game. Shawn Jefferson hauled in a 25-yard touchdown pass from Drew Bledsoe with 29 seconds left in the loss at New England.

Troy Drayton would like to see the tight end become a bigger part of the Dolphins offense.
Digest Photo/JC RIDLEY

In all, the Dolphins surrendered 22 regular-season pass plays of 30 or more yards. Some of this is merely a by-product of the defense's in-your-face press coverage scheme. But secondary coach Mel Phillips doesn't want that to be a season-long excuse.

"At some point, the great receiver is going to beat you," Phillips said. "But we gave up some big plays that we didn't have to give up, things that hurt us as a team. And we have to cut down on that this season."

7 Don't forget about the tight end.

Troy Drayton may never be the second coming of Keith Jackson in Miami's current offensive system. But the seven-year veteran — starting the season healthy and in the best shape of his career — can create his share of problems for a defense.

With so much emphasis on the running game, and Tony Martin with which to contend at wideout, will defenses lose sight of the tight end? Drayton, though admittedly biased, believes his position has wild card written all over it in 1999.

"The tight end has to be an x-factor," Drayton said. "Look at the playoff teams — the Green Bays, Denvers, San Franciscos — the tight ends there make a big difference. With the personnel we have at tight end, not only are we strong and physical, we're athletic as well. We can get a lot of things done."

8 Develop a cohesiveness along the offensive line.

It goes without saying that the Dolphins, as with all Super Bowl contenders, must avoid injuries to key players. But as last season illustrated, they also have to hope the injury bug doesn't ravage a select position.

The loss of left tackle Richmond Webb and left guard Mark Dixon, and a late-season injury to right guard Kevin Donnalley, decimated the offensive line and crippled the ground game.

As much as any unit on the team, the offensive line has to develop a chemistry to be effective. With J.J. talking about rotating seven players along the line (not unlike the defensive line), it remains to be seen whether this group will solidify. But it better if the ground game hopes to thrive.

"Everybody is starting to feel like, 'Let's get our starting five here and let's go from there,' " Donnalley said. "Good or bad, select the group that's going to carry the load. ... It takes working together for awhile to click as a whole.

"We have so many calls, so many blocking schemes. ... If you're not comfortable working with the guy beside you, it becomes hard to be on the same page. The slightest hesitation can get you beat."

9 Unleash the deep threat.

Miami had eight pass plays of 35 yards or more the entire 1998 season. Tony Martin had receptions of 53 and 35 yards in just over two quarters against the Dolphins last year.

Stretch the defense.

That is the intangible which Martin brings to the Miami offense for the first time in several years.

Give the holdover wideouts their due. For all the criticism heaped upon them during the early part of last season, Miami finished the year as the NFL's 10th-ranked passing offense. The Dolphins also featured the league leader in receptions — O.J. McDuffie with 90.

But last year's passing attack did little to strike fear in an opposing secondary. Martin's speed, however, can. Just the threat of a game-breaker at wideout can have a ripple effect offensively. Like one-on-one coverage for McDuffie. Keeping defenses from stacking the line against the run. And giving Marino an option of which he must take advantage.

10 Make November and December months to remember.

Over the past seven seasons, the Dolphins' combined regular-season mark during the months of November and December has been 29-29. Last year's stretch of nine games marked the first time since 1992 that Miami finished the November-December run with a record over .500 (the Dolphins were 5-4 in 1998).

The great teams pick it up a notch when the leaves fall and the winter winds begin to chill. The Dolphins have been as mild, however, as the holiday weather in South Florida.

With a pair of December showdowns looming against the Jets, Miami will have no choice but to shed its late-season mediocrity if the team hopes to steamroll, instead of stumble, into the postseason.

Jason Taylor

2000 CALENDAR

His teammates kid him about it and his coaches aren't sure what to think. But one thing is certain, it's Miami's hottest new calendar – **the Jason Taylor 2000 Calendar!** It's a 15-month calendar (September 1999 thru December 2000) with brilliant full-color photos of Miami Dolphins star defensive end Jason Taylor, all shot on location in South Florida. Calendars are available for only **$12.95**, or are available **autographed by Jason for only $24.95.** They make great gifts for any Dol-Fan! Order today and let the Jason Taylor calendar take you into the new millenium!

Jason Taylor 2000 Calendars:
$12.95 each plus $2.50 postage & handling **($15.45 total)**

Autographed Jason Taylor 2000 Calendars:
$24.95 each plus $2.50 postage & handling **($27.45 total)**

A portion of proceeds benefit the First Book children's literacy program

Credit card orders call our toll-free number below or send a check or money order along with your name and address to:
Dolphin Digest • 8033 NW 36 St. • Miami, FL 33166

Credit Card Orders Call 1-800-334-4005

NOW AVAILABLE!

Dolphins Leather Caps

Available with a black or white background — both with aqua and orange lettering and trim — these NFL-licensed leather caps are real attention-getters and the perfect complement for every diehard Dolphins fan. They even have an AFC logo on one side and a Dolphins logo on the other.

Only $29.95 Plus $3.00 Postage & Handling

Send Check or Money Order to: Dolphin Digest
P.O. Box 526600 Miami, FL 33152

Credit Card Orders Call:
1-800-334-4005

Makes a Perfect Gift!

A quick look at the NFL race

Bet you thought it would never arrive. What's Labor Day Weekend without the NFL inaugurals? Actually, it's one week too long of preseason. But now it counts, so let's take a look into the futures, courtesy of the Las Vegas Hilton Super Book.

Hank Goldberg
WQAM RADIO

Minnesota is an unplayable 2-1 to win the NFC. Heck, that's virtually vigorish and who wants to lay that. Randall Cunningham is coming off a career season. If he falters, there is Jeff George. Ugh! Big revenge this Sunday in Atlanta, which looks more attractive if you want to lay juice, although you will be giving four.

The Rest:

San Francisco (4-1) — Why? Are Lawrence Phillips and Charlie Garner on third down the answers? Age has caught up with this club, although the division isn't the strongest. Perhaps that is why.

Green Bay (9-2) — Mike Holmgren to Ray Rhodes. Ray obviously wants to win early as he won all of his preseason games. All 10 August perfectos in this decade have made the playoffs. Circle Week Three for their double-revenge home effort versus Vikes.

Atlanta (7-1) — Can Chris Chandler do it again? Danny Kanell becomes the man if Chris gets hurt. They will miss Tony Martin, who now stretches defenses for the Dolphins. Still like the "D." As in Dirty Bird.

Dallas (12-1) — Who's to beat in the NFC East? They will need Deion, as the 'Boys tanked the last month of last year without him. They have other key injuries and no Leon Lett for a time. Another aging outfit.

Arizona (12-1) — No thanks. They have had a summer of holdouts, a load of offensive and defensive line injuries, and a car wreck. This is an organization whose ownership flunks in seizing opportunity.

Giants (12-1) — What they are telling you is that the East is wide open. It says here that Kerry Collins will eventually take over at quarterback. They just need to find a healthy runner, and if they do, will beat their over of 8.

Tampa Bay (15-1) — Trent Dilfer and his wide receivers hold the key, and we're not ready to give up on him. Looking like a playoff team, with a defense that can compete with anybody. Florida football will be fun. Another exhibition unbeaten.

Washington (25-1) — Sleeper. Could content in the East if Brad Johnson, transplanted Vikings QB, stays in one piece. Champ Bailey, Big Daddy and Stubblefield made the defense special.

The Bottom:

New Orleans (40-1) — Big year for Ricky — Martin and Williams.

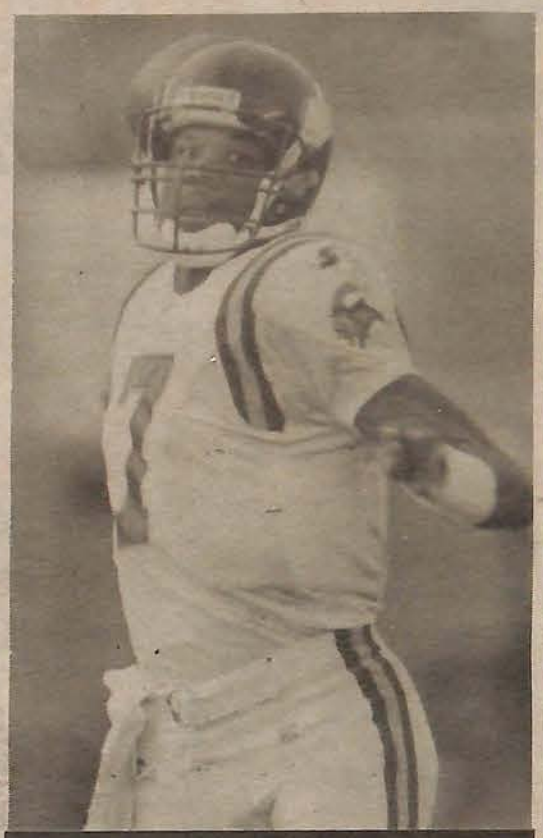
Carolina (60-1) — George Seifert has four QBs and not one reminds of Montana or Young.

Rams (75-1) — They should try Craig Erickson, as they have no QB without Trent Green.

Chicago (175-1) — Yucch!

Philadelphia (250-1) — Ouch!

Over to the AFC, where our own Dolphins are co-favored with the Jets and Jacksonville at 5-2. Based on the schedule, the Jags should have the edge, as the AFC East is the toughest of all divisions — no patsies (pardon the pun). Jacksonville has added defensive coordinator Dom Capers and his former All-Pro DB in Carnell Lake, and they have two games early with Cleveland, Baltimore (might snap that decade unbeaten preseason theory), Pittsburgh, Nashville and Cincinnati.,



Vikings quarterback Randall Cunningham is coming off a career year.

There are no bargains among the faves, although Tony Martin, Cecil Collins, J.J. Johnson and more bodies up front improve the locals.

The Rest:

Denver (7-2) — We'll learn mucho on Monday. Don't expect Brian Griese to recall John Elway. But he'll win his share. So will that defense. The price is right.

Seattle (10-1) — Holmgren needs Joey Galloway; with him, he can make a run. If the wide receiver had been in, so would my take at the price. Upset possibility as the Seahawks played Denver tough last year.

Pittsburgh (18-1) — Can Kevin Gilbride restore Kordell Stewart's confidence? Can the Steelers survive continuing defensive defections? Bill Cowher wants to make it back to the playoffs. No thanks.

Buffalo (18-1) — Will Doug Flutie do it again? If he doesn't, they are safe with Rob Johnson. Don't count out the Bills.

Tennessee (22-1) — Another AFC entry with a question at quarterback. Will Steve McNair stand up? This is a solid bunch that might finally get off 8-8.

New England (25-1) — The Patriots must get production from the running back position and get a full season out of Terry Glenn. Remember, they went into the playoffs without Drew Bledsoe. Considerable talent on hand with pressure on the coach, Pete Carroll.

Kansas City (25-1) — They could drop like a rock, but the defense will keep them in games. When the Chiefs play San Diego, take the under.

Oakland (40-1) — If it wasn't for the schedule, their chances would be better somewhat. How's this for openers? At Green Bay, at Minnesota, Chicago (OK), at Seattle, Denver, at Buffalo, Jets, Miami. Yeeek!

Colts (50-1) — They aren't this bad, but oh, that division. Big improvements on defense, Peyton Manning will be better, and they have the Edge. Could win over 6½.

Baltimore (45-1) — Scott Mitchell is there. They have some defense, but Jax is too tough.

The Balance:

Cleveland (75-1) — Expansion version of the Browns.

San Diego (100-1) — No hope for Ryan.

Cincinnati (175-1) — That's all, folks!

Sports Collectors Warehouse, Inc.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.gofins1.com

SIGNED AUTHENTIC GAME STYLE JERSEYS

• Tim Bowens New Logo Starter - $200.00 • Karim A Jabbar New Logo White Starter - $175.00
• John Avery New Logo White Starter - $175.00 • Zach Thomas Rookie Style Aqua Wilson - $225.00
• Bob Griese Old Logo White Wilson - $275.00 • Dan Marino Old Logo Aqua Wilson - $295.00

GAME USED SIGNED SHOES
Call for Pricing
• Jason Taylor • Sam Madison
• Ed Perry • Shawn Wooden
• Derrick Rodgers • Orande Gadsden
• Anthony Harris • Jerry Wilson

SIGNED 8x10 PICTURES PLAQUED WITH NAMEPLATE
• Zach Thomas $40.00 • Jason Taylor $35.00
• OJ McDuffie $40.00 • Brock Marion $35.00
• Sam Madison $35.00 • Cecil Collins $40.00
• JJ Johnson $35.00 • CALL FOR OTHERS

★ PHONE ORDERS TAKEN ★ CALL OR WRITE FOR A FREE CATALOG.
Ship. & hand.: Under $75 - $7.50 Over $75 - 10% of order. We accept MC/VISA/AMEX.

3404 S. University Dr. • University Park Plaza • (954) 475-4880
Next to Picadilly Cafeteria & a block from Dolphin Camp • Davie, FL 33328

YOUR TICKET TO GREAT SPORTS.

DOLPHINS

vs COLTS in Indianapolis — October 9-10
vs COWBOYS in Dallas — November 25-26
vs REDSKINS in Washington — January 1-2

includes lodging, taxes & game ticket.

Note: All rates are based on per person-double occupancy. Airfare available from all major cities.

From $149.00

The Great Atlantic Travel & Tour company

(800) 888-8233

1065 Laskin Road Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Top 10 Players of the '90s

This Week: No. 8 • TERRELL BUCKLEY • CB

In conjunction with the end of this decade, Dolphin Digest continues its series entitled "Top of the '90s," where we announce in reverse order our choices for both the Top 10 Dolphins players and Top 10 Dolphins games of the '90s. This issue features the No. 8 player of the decade; next issue will feature the No. 8 game, and we will proceed in countdown fashion until we announce both the top player and top game sometime in December.

But we want you to be a part of this feature as well, so go ahead and put together your Top 10 players and/or Top 10 games of the '90s and send it to us at Dolphin Digest (8033 N.W. 36th St., Miami, FL 33166). We'll compile all of your selections and announce the consensus of the fans in December.

By BILL DALEY
Staff Writer

For awhile when he first arrived in 1995, he was the butt of jokes, the whipping boy from his years in Green Bay, the poster child for cornerbacks getting burned.

But look who's getting the last laugh now. After what many would term a "career" year in 1998, Dolphins cornerback Terrell Buckley vaulted himself into the upper tier of NFL defensive backs and, as a result — even with just four seasons under his belt — cracked *Dolphin Digest's* Top 10 Players of the '90s at No. 8.

Cornerback Terrell Buckley has gotten better every year since joining the Dolphins in 1995. *Digest Photo/KEN KEIDEL*

In the '90s

1995 — After three years with the Packers that were considered by many "disappointing," Buckley was traded to Miami on April 4 and struggled with the transition.

Buckley was forced to play a reserve role behind Troy Vincent and J.B. Brown and pitch in whenever he could. Then he got his first start in the season's 13th week and played well over the last four weeks. He closed out the regular season in St. Louis by recording six tackles, one interception and two passes defensed in a 41-22 win over the Rams. He was honored as AFC Defensive Player of the Week for his efforts.

1996 — Buckley not only survived the Don Shula-to-Jimmy Johnson transition, but also used the momentum of his late-season flourish in '95 to nail the starting job at corner.

He wound up starting all 16 games and finished with 54 tackles (48 solo), one fumble recovery, two forced fumbles and team-leading totals of six interceptions and 17 passes defensed. The interception total placed him in a tie for third in the AFC and a tie for fourth in the NFL.

He started the season strong with four picks in the first three games, including two against Arizona in a 38-10 Miami win. The four-game interception streak (including the '95 finale at St. Louis) was one shy of the team record of five set by Dick Westmoreland in 1967.

Without a doubt, though, his season highlight came in an Oct. 13 at Buffalo. With the Dolphins clinging to a 14-7 lead with a minute left and the Bills deep in Miami territory, Buckley picked off a Jim Kelly pass and sprinted 91 yards for the game-clinching touchdown. It marked the third-longest interception return in Dolphins history.

1997 — If unspectacular, it was a solid year as Buckley finished third on the team with a career-high 93 total tackles and led the club again in interceptions and passes defensed with 4 and 11, respectively.

One of his season highlights came in an Oct. 27 Monday night contest against Chicago at Pro Player Stadium, when he scooped up a Ricky Proehl fumble and returned it 22 yards for a touchdown. He then turned in his best effort of the year in a Dec. 7 game against Detroit, when he recorded eight tackles and picked off two passes in a 33-30 Miami victory. Buckley's effort garnered him AFC Defensive Player of the Week honors.

1998 — The Dolphins brought in a new defensive scheme that required the cornerbacks to play a much more dangerous in-your-face, bump-and-run style, and Buckley flourished with a breakout season.

While his tackle total fell to 54, it was understandable since he was busier picking off passes, recovering and forcing fumbles, and even returning punts.

His eight interceptions was a career high and just three shy of the combined 11 in his first three seasons in Miami. He wound up finishing in a tie for second with fellow teammate Sam Madison for the league lead in interceptions, behind New England's Ty Law. The 16 combined picks by the two broke a 31-year-old team record of 14 set by Westmoreland and Jimmy Warren in 1967.

Buckley also contributed on special teams, as he finished second in the AFC and sixth in the NFL with a 12.2-yard average on 29 punt returns. The yards-per-return average was the second-best in club history, trailing only Freddie Solomon's 12.3 in 1975.

The highlight of his season came in the opener at Indianapolis, when he picked off two Peyton Manning passes and returned one 21 yards for a touchdown in a 24-15 Miami win.

Somehow, when Pro Bowl honors came out, Buckley had to settle for being a second alternate. He was, however, chosen as an All-Pro by *Source Sports Magazine*.

Making a Case

Not tall enough. Not fast enough. Can't cover the tall receivers. Buckley, or T-Buck as he is commonly referred to, heard all the critics but paid no attention. All he did was go out and work hard and become one of the best Dolphins players to put on a uniform this decade. In just four seasons, his 19 total picks ranks him ninth on the all-time list of Dolphins interception leaders.

Buckley as a Miami Dolphin

Year	G-S	TACK.	ASST.	TOTAL	INT.	YDS.
1995	16-4	26	1	27	1	0
1996	16-16	48	6	54	6	164
1997	16-16	85	8	93	4	26
1998	16-16	45	9	54	8	157
TOT	**64/52**	**204**	**24**	**228**	**19**	**347**

Already Picked
No. 10 – Jeff Cross
No. 9 – Pete Stoyanovich

Next Week:
The No. 8 Game of the '90s

Tackling the Davis dilemma

Dolphins defense ready for Denver running back

By KEVIN KAMINSKI
Assistant Editor

Inasmuch as the Miami defense would like to close its eyes to the events of Jan. 9, 1999, that won't be possible this week.

It's no wonder then that, as the team prepared for Monday night's regular-season opener against running back Terrell Davis and the defending Super Bowl champion Broncos, some Dolphins were bracing for a montage of footage as graphic, and horrifying, as any in Miami postseason memory.

"It's going to be quite embarrassing to watch that film," said linebacker Robert Jones of the Dolphins' divisional playoff debacle at Denver. "And it should hurt us. If it doesn't hurt us, then we're not competitive."

With tackle Tim Bowens (torn right biceps tendon) and end Jason Taylor (fractured clavicle) on injured reserve, the defense proved anything but competitive last January as Miami suffered its most decisive loss (38-3) in team playoff history.

Just three weeks after limiting Davis to a season-low 29 yards on 16 carries in the team's Dec. 21 Monday night masterpiece, a 31-21 victory over the Broncos at Miami, the depleted Dolphins defense suffered the full wrath of the league's Most Valuable Player.

Midway through the Broncos' first series, Davis had already surpassed his total from the Monday night game. By halftime, he had shredded the Dolphins for 129 yards on 16 carries. Then, for good measure, Davis opened the third quarter with a morale-crushing 62-yard burst on Denver's first play from scrimmage.

When the carnage came to a merciful conclusion, Davis had totaled 199 rushing yards — the most ever allowed by a Miami defense in a playoff game.

"That last game against Denver, the linemen we had hurt made all the difference," linebacker Zach Thomas said. "We just didn't have the rotation to keep guys fresh. So you saw these huge holes that simply weren't there in the Monday night game."

"Tim (Bowens) has the respect of offensive linemen all over this league; just look at his Pro Bowl nod," Jones said. "He has to be double-teamed the majority of the plays. So they had their game plan set to take advantage of that.

"Give them credit. Denver made some adjustments after that Monday night game. Now, we have to adjust to their adjustments. ... We better correct what we did wrong in January. Or the same thing will happen."

The Dolphins simply couldn't slow down Terrell Davis when they faced the Broncos in last year's playoffs. Digest Photo/JC RIDLEY

Ensuring it doesn't happen has been high on the defense's priority list as the Dolphins prepare to kick off the 1999 season against a team it will be seeing for the third time in five games dating back to last year.

With Bowens and Taylor healthy, and the addition of offseason acquisition Rich Owens to the defensive line rotation, the Dolphins head for Mile High Stadium intent on proving that January's collapse up front was nothing more than an aberration.

The same, however, can be said for Davis' 29-yard anomaly at Miami, which turned out to be a mere blip on the road to 2,008 regular-season yards.

After a feast-or-famine split of last season's duels, the Broncos' ground forces and the Dolphins' run defense embark on this rubber match with both confidence and concerns.

Still, there is one truth which neither side can avoid. Victory, without question, will be found in the trenches.

"Right now, Denver has an offense with the best running back in the league," Jones said. "With Terrell, you don't need big offensive linemen. You need linemen who are smart, who understand the blocking schemes, who know where to be, when to be there — and who just give Terrell a crack.

"To be successful against that, you have to study exactly what their offensive line is trying to do. What are they trying to accomplish in their blocking schemes? We've seen them enough that we have a feel for that. So now, we just have to play like we played that Monday night — aggressive."

Evidence of that aggressiveness could be found on first down. Davis entered the December game having gained a staggering 1,107 of his then-1,801 yards on first down, for a gaudy average gain of 6.3 yards. But in the first half against Miami, his nine first-down carries went for only 22 yards (a 2.4-yard average).

The Dolphins shut Davis down with excellent pursuit and solid push into the Denver backfield.

"You have to clog the running lanes against Denver," linebacker Derrick Rodgers said. "If (Davis) sits back there and can make his own cuts and make up his own mind when and where he wants to go, you're in deep trouble.

"You have to keep him running east and west, not north and south. That's with any back. But especially with him."

In addition to the injuries which ravaged the front line, Jones said that, in the rematch, not only did Davis kill the Dolphins with his uncanny cut-backs, but also the Denver offense as a whole did a much better job of keeping the Dolphins on their collective heels.

"In the Monday night game, for example, (tight end) Shannon Sharpe lined up inside of the three receivers, either to the left or right," Jones said. "That allowed our linebackers to always get a piece of him.

"But in the playoff game, they lined Shannon out wide. That meant that one linebacker had to cover him one-on-one. And it opened the field up. ... It's things like that we will work on — and be prepared to handle."

As much as the defense would love to once again corral Davis, it's still only the first game on a long, long road. To that end, the Dolphins enter Monday night's opener trying to maintain at least some bit of perspective.

"We're trying to improve on what we did last year," Rodgers said. "If that includes beating Denver at Denver, then we have to do that. ... But by the same token, what if we're at the last game and people are going, 'Well, they lost 14 games, but they beat Denver the first week.' At that point, who cares?

"We need to maintain intensity all season long. We want our whole season to be a statement. Not just the first game."

Miami Dolphins

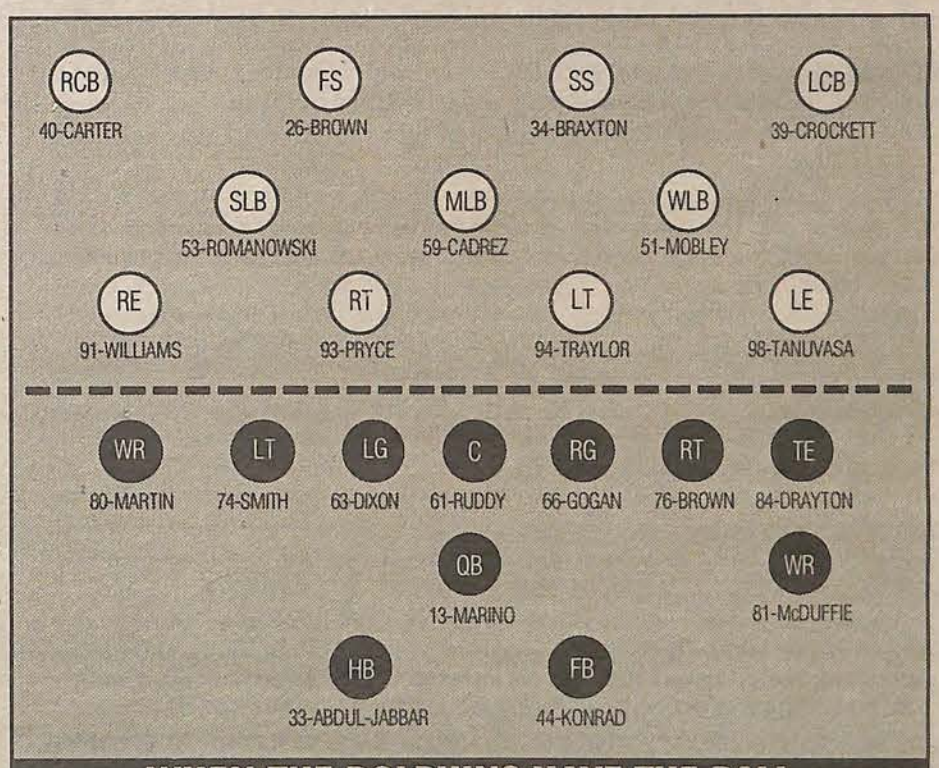
No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wt.	Exp.	College
6	Brent Bartholomew	P	6-2	220	R	Ohio State
10	Olindo Mare	K	5-10	190	3	Syracuse
11	Damon Huard	QB	6-3	215	3	Washington
13	Dan Marino	QB	6-4	228	17	Pittsburgh
16	Jim Druckenmiller	QB	6-5	234	3	Virginia Tech
20	John Avery	RB	5-9	190	2	Mississippi
21	Rayna Stewart	S	5-10	200	4	Northern Arizona
22	Shawn Wooden	S	5-11	205	4	Notre Dame
23	Patrick Surtain	CB	5-11	190	2	Southern Miss
24	Jerry Wilson	CB	5-10	187	5	Southern U.
25	Greg Jeffries	CB	5-9	195	7	Virginia
27	Terrell Buckley	CB	5-10	180	8	Florida State
28	Ray Hill	CB	6-0	195	2	Michigan State
29	Sam Madison	CB	5-11	185	3	Louisville
31	Brock Marion	S	5-11	205	7	Nevada
32	James Johnson	RB	6-1	230	R	Mississippi State
33	Karim Abdul-Jabbar	RB	5-11	205	4	UCLA
34	Cecil Collins	RB	5-10	207	R	McNeese State
36	Stanley Pritchett	FB	6-1	240	4	South Carolina
38	Calvin Jackson	S	5-9	195	5	Auburn
44	Rob Konrad	FB	6-3	255	R	Syracuse
50	Dwight Hollier	LB	6-2	242	8	North Carolina
51	Anthony Harris	LB	6-1	240	4	Auburn
52	Robert Jones	LB	6-3	245	8	East Carolina
53	Larry Izzo	LB	5-10	228	4	Rice
54	Zach Thomas	LB	5-11	235	4	Texas Tech
57	O.J. Brigance	LB	6-0	236	4	Rice
59	Derrick Rodgers	LB	6-1	230	3	Arizona State
60	John Bock	OG	6-3	295	5	Indiana State
61	Tim Ruddy	C	6-3	300	6	Notre Dame
62	Grey Ruegamer	C	6-5	310	R	Arizona State
63	Mark Dixon	OG	6-4	300	2	Virginia
65	Kevin Donnalley	OG	6-5	310	9	North Carolina
66	Kevin Gogan	OG	6-7	325	13	Washington
74	Brent Smith	OL	6-5	315	3	Mississippi State
76	James Brown	OT	6-6	265	7	Penn State
78*	Richmond Webb	OT	6-6	315	10	Texas A&M
79	Kenny Mixon	DE	6-4	282	2	LSU
80	Tony Martin	WR	6-1	175	10	Mesa
81	O.J. McDuffie	WR	5-10	194	7	Penn State
82	Larry Shannon	WR	6-4	215	2	East Carolina
83	Hunter Goodwin	TE	6-5	270	4	Texas A&M
84	Troy Drayton	TE	6-3	265	7	Penn State
86	Oronde Gadsen	WR	6-2	215	2	Winston-Salem
87	Yatil Green	WR	6-2	205	3	Miami (Fla.)
89	Ed Perry	TE	6-4	265	3	James Madison
90	Dimitrius Underwood	DE	6-6	276	R	Michigan State
91	Lorenzo Bromell	DE	6-6	270	2	Clemson
92	Daryl Gardener	DT	6-6	315	4	Baylor
93	Trace Armstrong	DE	6-4	270	11	Florida
95	Tim Bowens	DT	6-4	315	6	Mississippi
96	Rich Owens	DE	6-6	275	5	Lehigh
98	Antoine Simpson	DT	6-2	310	1	Houston
99	Jason Taylor	DE	6-6	260	3	Akron

* under roster exemption as of Sept. 6

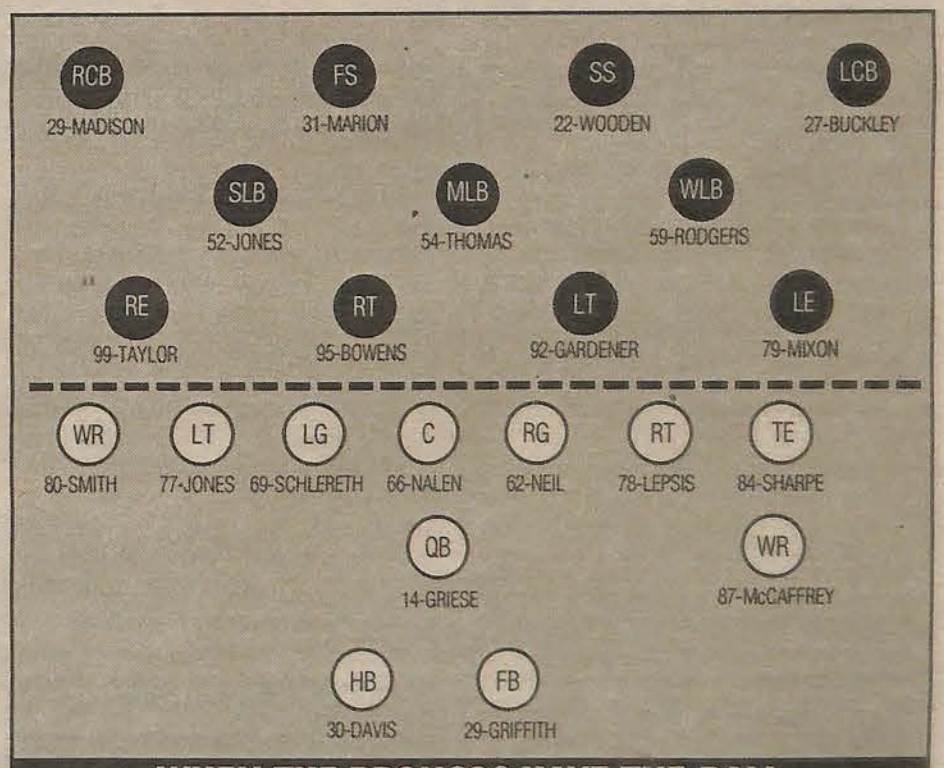
Denver Broncos

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp	College
1	Jason Elam	K	5-11	200	7	Hawaii
6	Bubby Brister	QB	5-11	205	13	Northeast Louisiana
12	Chris Miller	QB	6-2	212	10	Oregon
14	Brian Griese	QB	6-3	215	2	Michigan
16	Tom Rouen	P	6-3	225	7	Colorado
19	Chris Doering	WR	6-3	191	1	Florida
20	Tory James	CB	6-1	195	4	LSU
21	Chris Watson	CB	6-1	192	R	Eastern Illinois
24	Olandis Gary	RB	5-11	218	R	Georgia
25	Darrius Johnson	S	5-9	185	4	Oklahoma
26	Eric Brown	S	6-0	210	2	Mississippi State
29	Howard Griffith	FB	6-0	230	7	Illinois
30	Terrell Davis	RB	5-11	210	5	Georgia
31	Derek Loville	RB	5-10	210	9	Oregon
32	Curtis Alexander	RB	6-0	200	1	Alabama
34	Tyrone Braxton	S	5-11	190	13	North Dakota State
37	Anthony Lynn	FB	6-3	230	6	Texas Tech
39	Ray Crockett	CB	5-10	184	11	Baylor
40	Dale Carter	CB	6-1	188	8	Tennessee
42	Detron Smith	FB	5-10	230	4	Texas A&M
48	George Coghill	S	6-0	210	2	Wake Forest
50	Artie Ulmer	LB	6-3	247	2	Valdosta State
51	John Mobley	LB	6-1	236	4	Kutztown (Pa.)
52	David Bowens	LB	6-2	255	R	Western Illinois
53	Bill Romanowski	LB	6-4	245	12	Boston College
54	Nate Wayne	LB	6-0	230	2	Mississippi
56	Al Wilson	LB	6-0	240	R	Tennessee
59	Glenn Cadrez	LB	6-3	240	8	Houston
60	K.C. Jones	C	6-1	275	3	Miami (Fla.)
62	Dan Neil	G/C	6-2	281	3	Texas
66	Tom Nalen	C	6-2	286	6	Boston College
69	Mark Schlereth	G	6-3	287	11	Idaho
70	Trey Teague	T	6-5	285	2	Tennessee
73	Cyron Brown	DT	6-5	265	2	Western Illinois
77	Tony Jones	T	6-5	291	12	Western Carolina
78	Matt Lepsis	T	6-4	290	3	Colorado
79	Chris Banks	G	6-1	300	2	Kansas
80	Rod Smith	WR	6-0	200	5	Missouri Southern
81	Andre Cooper	WR	6-2	210	1	Florida State
82	Marcus Nash	WR	6-3	195	2	Tennessee
83	Travis McGriff	WR	5-8	185	R	Florida
84	Shannon Sharpe	TE	6-2	230	10	Savannah State
86	Byron Chamberlain	TE	6-1	242	5	Wayne State (Neb.)
87	Ed McCaffrey	WR	6-5	215	9	Stanford
88	Desmond Clark	TE	6-3	255	R	Wake Forest
89	Dwayne Carswell	TE	6-3	260	6	Liberty
90	Neil Smith	DE	6-4	270	12	Nebraska
91	Alfred Williams	DE	6-6	263	9	Colorado
93	Trevor Pryce	DT	6-5	295	3	Clemson
94	Keith Traylor	DT	6-2	304	8	Central State (Okla.)
96	Harald Hasselbach	DE	6-6	285	6	Washington
97	Mike Lodish	DT	6-3	270	10	UCLA
98	Maa Tanuvasa	DE	6-2	270	6	Hawaii
99	Montae Reagor	DE	6-2	256	R	Texas Tech

STARTING LINEUPS



WHEN THE DOLPHINS HAVE THE BALL



WHEN THE BRONCOS HAVE THE BALL

Countdown to Kickoff

MIAMI DOLPHINS vs. DENVER BRONCOS

GAME FACTS

- DATE ..... Sept. 13
- TIME ..... 9 p.m.
- SITE ..... Mile High Stadium
- CAPACITY 76,098

THE SERIES

The teams met five times in the Dolphins' first four years of existence (1966-69), but only faced each other three times in the next 28 years. Now, the teams are meeting for the third time since last December. The Dolphins lead the series 6-3-1, with Denver winning the only playoff encounter.

LAST MEETING

Ugh! Terrell Davis rushed for 199 yards and two touchdowns, the Dolphins turned the ball over three times, and the result was an ugly 38-3 playoff loss at Mile High Stadium last Jan. 9. Denver scored touchdowns on its first three drives, one of which was kept alive when linebacker Robert Jones dropped a sure interception. The only Dolphins player who had anything resembling a good outing was wide receiver O.J. McDuffie, who caught nine passes for 118 yards.

CONNECTIONS

Broncos starting strong safety Tyrone Braxton played with the Dolphins in 1994. Starting quarterback Brian Griese is the son of former Dolphins Hall of Famer Bob Griese.

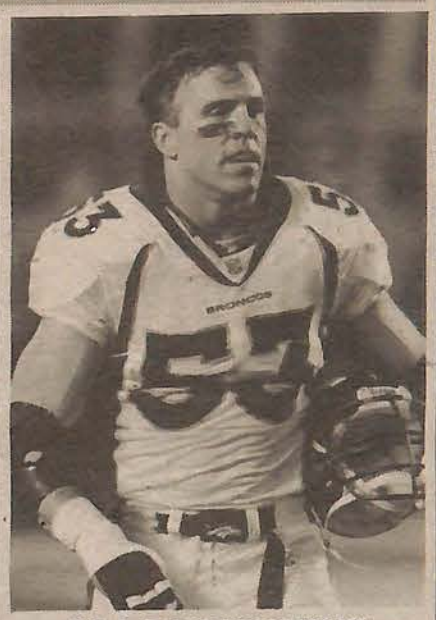
PLAYERS TO WATCH

SHANNON SHARPE

The Mouth That Roared is no more. At least, that was the case as the preseason was winding down.

Shannon Sharpe made a vow not to talk to the media this season, with the exception of his radio show. That came as shocking news to anyone familiar with Sharpe and his penchant for coming up with outrageous comments.

But, like him or not, give the man his due. Sharpe has been more than a great talker through the years, as evidenced by his seven consecutive Pro Bowl invitations and his streak of six straight season with at least 60 catches.



BILL ROMANOWSKI

Like Sharpe, Bill Romanowski is another player who has been known to do a lot of talking.

But Romanowski also may be the most important player on the Denver defense. The Broncos like to blitz him a lot, and last year he responded with a career-high 7.5 sacks, to go along with 95 tackles, two interceptions, three forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries.

But here's the most important stat to know about Romanowski: In 11 NFL seasons, he has won four Super Bowl titles and his teams have had a winning record 10 times.

KEY MATCHUPS

Dolphins CBs Sam Madison and Terrell Buckley vs. Broncos WRs Ed McCaffrey and Rod Smith: One of the best wide receiver tandems in the NFL goes up against one of the top cornerback duos. Enough said.

Dolphins RGs Kevin Gogan and Kevin Donnalley vs. Broncos DT Keith Traylor: Traylor is the key to Denver's outstanding run defense. It will be up to Gogan and Donnalley to wear him down.

Dolphins WR Tony Martin vs. Broncos CB Dale Carter: Martin was brought to Miami to provide the big play, while Carter was brought to Denver specifically to prevent it.

STAT OF THE WEEK

CHALLENGING THE CHAMPS

The Dolphins vs. defending Super Bowl champions since the AFL-NFL merger:

Season	Opponent	Result
1998	Denver	W, 31-21
1998	Denver	L, 38-3*
1997	Green Bay	L, 23-18
1996	Dallas	L, 29-10
1995	San Francisco	L, 44-20
1993	Dallas	W, 16-14
1984	L.A. Raiders	L, 45-34
1981	Oakland	L, 33-17
1980	Pittsburgh	L, 23-10
1979	Pittsburgh	L, 34-14*
1978	Dallas	W, 23-16
1976	Pittsburgh	L, 14-3
1971	Baltimore	W, 17-14
1971	Baltimore	L, 14-3
1971	Baltimore	W, 21-0*

*playoff game

WHEN THE DOLPHINS HAVE THE BALL

With Terrell Davis and John Elway stealing the spotlight, the Denver defense often got overlooked last season. But you don't win the Super Bowl without a quality defense, and that's exactly what the Broncos have. Denver was particularly effective against the run last season, finishing third in the league. This will be a good test to see whether the Dolphins' offseason additions will make a difference in the ground game. Denver was vulnerable to the pass last year (26th in the NFL), but the addition of former Pro Bowl cornerback Dale Carter should make a big difference there. The Broncos like to blitz often, and the Dolphins will have to do a better job at picking it up than they did in last year's playoffs.

WHEN THE BRONCOS HAVE THE BALL

There's no great secret when it comes to stopping the Denver offense: Limit the damage Terrell Davis does. The Dolphins shut him down in December and won the game. They couldn't slow him down in the playoffs and got blown out. Of course, stopping him is easier said than done. The Dolphins simply have to get penetration up front, and that means Daryl Gardener and Tim Bowens need to have a big game. Brian Griese is expected to make his first NFL start at quarterback, and he doesn't possess the type of mobility that either John Elway or Bubby Brister could count on to pick up first downs scrambling out of the pocket.

Last Week

Amid the quarterback controversy involving Brian Griese and Bubby Brister, it was third QB Chris Miller who stole the show during a 34-3 victory over San Francisco at Mile High Stadium. Miller completed 15 of 20 passes for 223 yards and four touchdowns to help Denver finish the preseason with a winning record (3-2). Griese, meanwhile, was 12-of-17 for 111 yards, while Brister did not play.

THE COACHES

JIMMY JOHNSON

One of only two coaches to win both a national championship in college and the Super Bowl, Johnson has a 6-2 record in NFL opening-day games, including a 3-0 mark with the Dolphins. Johnson is 2-1 against Denver.

MIKE SHANAHAN

Putting behind an unsuccessful two-year stint as Raiders head coach in 1988-89, Shanahan has won two Super Bowl titles with Denver and established himself as one of the top coaches in the NFL. He is 6-0 in season openers.

Last Word

"... Brian Griese has played so well throughout training camp and the preseason games that I think he deserves that opportunity."

— COACH MIKE SHANAHAN

Game Summary

	1	2	3	4	TOT
MIAMI	2	9	3	3	17
GREEN BAY	0	8	14	3	25

TEAM STATISTICS

	MIA	GB
FIRST DOWNS	18	13
3RD-DOWN EFFICIENCY	3-13	2-11
TOTAL NET YARDS	348	237
Total Plays	64	55
Average gain	5.4	4.3
NET YARDS RUSHING	85	85
Rushes	25	27
Average Per Rush	3.4	3.1
NET YARDS PASSING	263	152
Completed-attempted	19-36	13-24
Yards per pass	6.7	5.4
Sacked-yards lost	3-24	4-17
Had intercepted	2	2
PUNTS-AVERAGE	3-46.0	7-34.4
PENALTIES-YARDS	9-62	8-83
FUMBLES-LOST	3-2	1-0
TIME OF POSSESSION	33:47	26:13

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Missed Field Goals: NONE.

Miami rushing: John Avery 12-43, Rob Konrad 1-21, Bernie Parmalee 8-17, Kantroy Barber 1-4, Damon Huard 1-2, Craig Erickson 1-0, Brent Bartholomew 1-(-2).

Green Bay rushing: De'Mond Parker 9-45, Matt Hasselbeck 4-25, Aaron Brooks 2-6, Brett Favre 1-6, Dorsey Levens 5-3, Matt Snider 1-3, Basil Mitchell 5-(-3).

Miami passing: Craig Erickson 10-17-1-172, Damon Huard 9-17-1-91, Dan Marino 0-2-0-0.

Green Bay passing: Matt Hasselbeck 10-15-1-97, Aaron Brooks 2-4-0-50, Brett Favre 1-5-1-5.

Miami receiving: John Avery 3-35, Oronde Gadsden 3-26, Ed Perry 2-34, Troy Drayton 2-25, Kantroy Barber 2-22, Bernie Parmalee 2-16, Larry Shannon 1-56, Kio Sanford 1-19, Derrick Steagall 1-13, Nate Jacquet 1-12, Jamie Reader 1-5.

Green Bay receiving: Basil Mitchell 3-60, William Henderson 3-16, Jahine Arnold 2-34, De'Mond Parker 2-5, Bill Schroeder 1-27, Donald Driver 1-5, Antonio Freeman 1-5.

PT&T
9608 Accord Dr. • Potomac, MD 20854
ALL DOLPHINS GAMES
HOME or AWAY
Groups Available
(301) 299-8540
or
(301) 299-0542

MIDWAY SPORTS
Specializing In Team Equipment & Uniforms
★ OPEN SUNDAY ★
MALL OF THE AMERICAS
Formerly Midway Mall
7881 W. Flagler St.
Hablamos Español
PH: 264-0788 • FAX 266-6130

FINAL PRESEASON STATISTICS

WON 2, LOST 2		
08/13 L 14-26	New Orleans	59,972
08/21 W 13-10	at San Diego	64,537
08/28 W 31-10	Detroit	61,066
09/02 L 17-25	at Green Bay	59,810

	Miami	Opp.
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	76	63
Rushing	26	16
Passing	45	34
Penalty	5	13
3rd Down: Made/Att	13/51	18/55
3rd Down Pct.	25.5	32.7
4th Down: Made/Att	3/10	1/3
4th Down Pct.	30.0	33.3
POSSESSION AVG.	31:54	28:06
TOTAL NET YARDS	1169	944
Avg. Per Game	292.3	236.0
Total Plays	262	237
Avg. Per Play	4.5	4.0
NET YARDS RUSHING	397	312
Avg. Per Game	99.3	78.0
Total Rushes	115	98
NET YARDS PASSING	772	632
Avg. Per Game	193.0	158.0
Sacked/Yards Lost	10/77	14/91
Gross Yards	849	723
Att./Completions	137/73	125/59
Completion Pct.	53.3	47.2
Had Intercepted	2	8
PUNTS/AVERAGE	19/40.6	24/40.2
NET PUNTING AVG.	19/36.6	24/30.7
PENALTIES/YARDS	38/270	28/238
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	9/5	3/0
TOUCHDOWNS	7	7
Rushing	2	1
Passing	3	4
Returns	2	2

* SCORE BY PERIODS	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	OT	PTS
TEAM	9	30	3	33	0	75
OPPONENTS	9	32	17	13	0	71

* SCORING	TD	Ru	Pa	Rt	K-PAT	FG	S	PTS
Mare	0	0	0	0	7/ 7	8/ 9	0	31
Collins	2	2	0	0			0	12
Konrad	1	0	1	0			0	6
Madison	1	0	0	1			0	6
Martin	1	0	1	0			0	6
Sanford LG	1	0	1	0			0	6
Sanford TM	1	0	1	0			0	6
Surtain	1	0	0	1			0	6
TEAM	7	2	3	2	7/ 7	8/ 9	1	75
OPPONENTS	7	1	4	2	6/ 6	7/ 8	0	71

2-Pt. Conversions: TEAM 0-0, OPPONENTS 1-1

SACKS: Bromell 3.0, Jeffries 2.0, Owens 2.0, Wilson 2.0, Rodgers 1.0, Stewart 1.0, Tanner 1.0, Taylor 1.0, Z. Thomas 1.0, TEAM 14.0, OPPONENTS 10.0

* RUSHING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Collins	34	144	4.2	12	2
Avery	28	109	3.9	15	0
Abdul-Jabbar	23	49	2.1	11	0
Parmalee	13	36	2.8	12	0
Konrad	3	25	8.3	21	0
Huard	3	16	5.3	8	0
Pritchett	1	11	11.0	11	0
Barber	2	4	2.0	4	0
Ju. Johnson	4	4	1.0	3	0
Erickson	3	1	0.3	2	0
Bartholomew	1	-2	-2.0	-2	0
TEAM	115	397	3.5	21	2
OPPONENTS	98	312	3.2	33	1

* RECEIVING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Shannon	8	145	18.1	56	0
Martin	8	99	12.4	24	1
Avery	8	86	10.8	31	0
Drayton	8	68	8.5	20	0
Y. Green	5	69	13.8	23	0
Steagall	5	54	10.8	13	0
Konrad	5	36	7.2	14	1
Perry	4	60	15.0	21	0
Sanford LG	3	67	22.3	32t	1
Sanford TM	3	67	22.3	32t	1
Barber	3	29	9.7	17	0
Gadsden	3	26	8.7	11	0
McDuffie	2	28	14.0	14	0
W. Green	2	17	8.5	11	0
Parmalee	2	16	8.0	9	0
L. Thomas	2	14	7.0	9	0
Pritchett	2	10	5.0	5	0
Collins	1	12	12.0	12	0
Jacquet	1	8	8.0	8	0
McKenzie LG	1	8	8.0	8	0
Reader	1	5	5.0	5	0
TEAM	73	849	11.6	56	3
OPPONENTS	59	723	12.3	45t	4

* INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Madison	2	70	35.0	46t	1
Wooden	2	0	0.0	0	0
Surtain	1	40	40.0	40t	1
Jackson	1	33	33.0	33	0
Wilson	1	13	13.0	13	0
Stewart	1	9	9.0	9	0
TEAM	8	165	20.6	46t	2
OPPONENTS	2	56	28.0	45	0

* PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	Net	TB	In	Lg	B
Bartholomew	17	692	40.7	36.6	0	5	51	0
Gallery	2	79	39.5	36.0	0	0	41	0
TEAM	19	771	40.6	36.6	0	5	51	0
OPPONENTS	24	965	40.2	30.7	6	5	67	1

* PUNT RETURNS	Ret	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Avery	4	1	15	3.8	9	0
Buckley	3	0	57	19.0	34	0
Baker	2	1	22	11.0	13	0
Sanford LG	2	0	-2	-1.0	-2	0
Sanford TM	2	0	-2	-1.0	-2	0
McDuffie	1	0	16	16.0	16	0
TEAM	12	2	108	9.0	34	0
OPPONENTS	11	5	76	6.9	15	0

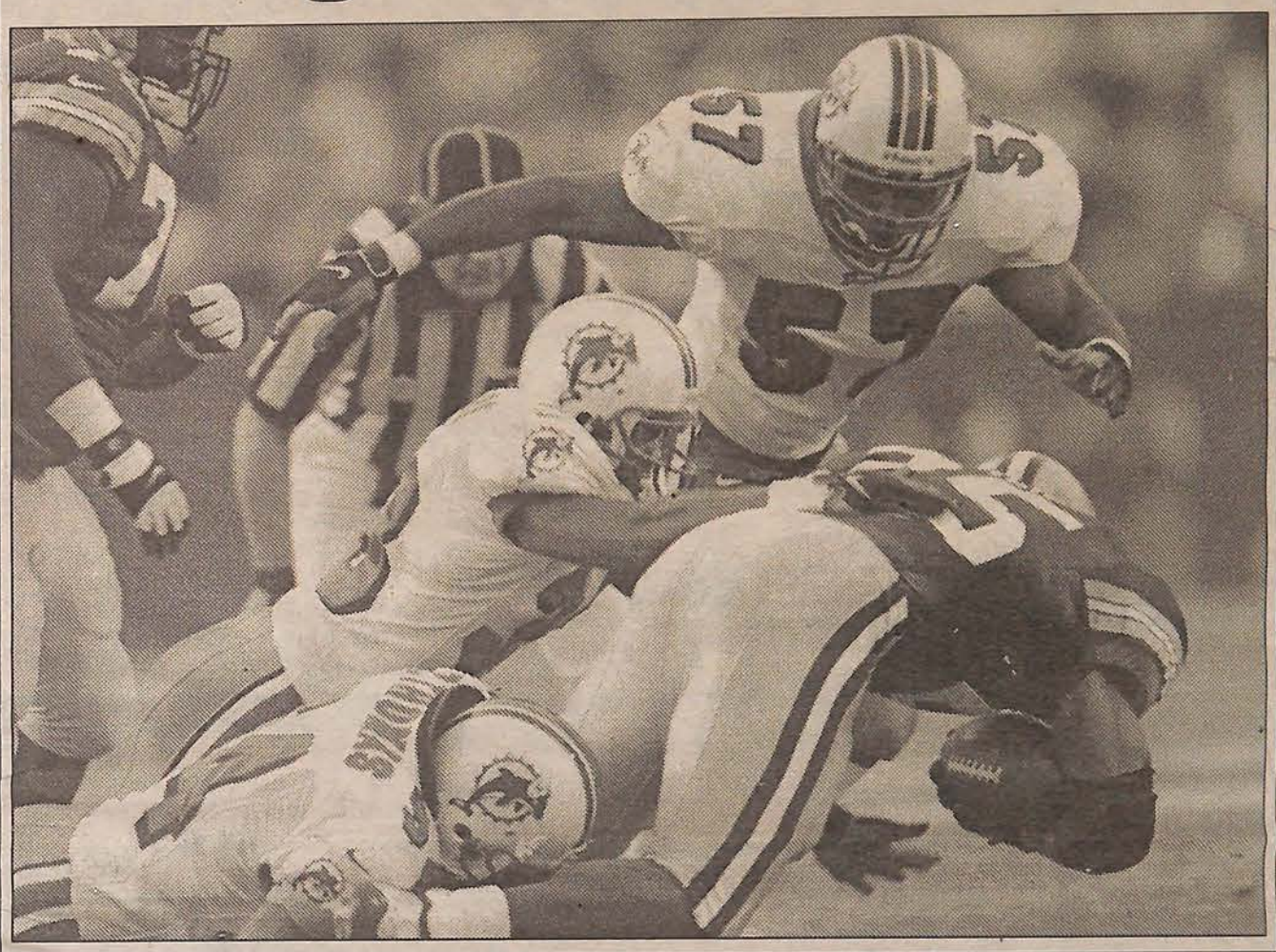
* KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Avery	8	176	22.0	40	0
Sanford LG	4	123	30.8	54	0
Sanford TM	4	123	30.8	54	0
Baker	2	37	18.5	24	0
Marion	2	40	20.0	23	0
Parmalee	0	0	---	---	0
TEAM	16	376	23.5	54	0
OPPONENTS	17	333	19.6	34t	1

* FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
Mare	0/ 0	2/ 2	2/ 2	4/ 5	0/0
TEAM	0/ 0	2/ 2	2/ 2	4/ 5	0/0
OPPONENTS	0/ 0	2/ 2	0/ 0	4/ 4	1/2

* PASSING	Att	Cmp	Yds	Cmp%	Yds/Att	TD	TD%	Int	Int%	Long	Sack/Lost	Rating
Huard	59	32	352	54.2	5.97	2	3.4	1	1.7	39	6/ 41	76.4
Marino	58	29	313	50.0	5.40	1	1.7	0	0.0	31	3/ 26	72.0
Erickson	20	12	184	60.0	9.20	0	0.0	1	5.0	56	1/ 10	69.6
TEAM	137	73	849	53.3	6.20	3	2.2	2	1.5	56	10/ 77	73.5
OPPONENTS	125	59	723	47.2	5.78	4	3.2	8	6.4	45t	14/ 91	49.5

GREEN BAY 25, MIAMI 17

Closing the door on Dorsey



Linebacker Zach Thomas helped the Dolphins totally shut down Packers running back Dorsey Levens, who was held to 3 yards on five carries.
Digest Photo/JC RIDLEY

FAST FACTS

Final preseason record: 2-2

Key stat: The Dolphins drove inside the Green Bay 30-yard line six different times but failed to score a touchdown.

Turning point: The Dolphins led 11-0 and had the ball at their own 23 with 1:08 left in the first half. Damon Huard was hit as he threw the ball and Anthony Davis intercepted, setting up a touchdown that made it 11-8 at halftime and started the Packers comeback.

Dolphins highlights: The defense again was solid, holding Green Bay to 220 total yards. ... The Dolphins recorded four sacks and came up with two interceptions. ... In his first action since the preseason opener, Oronde Gadsden caught three passes for 26 yards.

Dolphins lowlights: The penalty problems continued as the Dolphins were flagged nine times for 62 yards. ... The offense was only 3-for-13 (23 percent) in third-down conversions. ... Dolphins running backs were tackled for a loss four times. ... The Dolphins sustained several injuries, including one which landed wide receiver Kio Sanford on injured reserve.

the BIG plays

• Midway through the first quarter, Brock Marion blocks Chris Hanson's punt through the end zone for a Miami safety.

• John Avery fumbles the ensuing free kick and the Packers recover at the Miami 9-yard line, but Shawn Wooden intercepts a Matt Hasselbeck pass in the end zone.

• Rob Konrad's 21-yard run sets up Olindo Mare's 31-yard field goal.

• A 28-yard pass-interference penalty sets up another Mare field goal on Miami's next drive.

• After the Dolphins stop Green Bay's next drive, Hanson's punt actually goes for minus-1 yard, giving Miami possession at the Packers 26-yard line.

• The Dolphins settle for Mare's third field goal, which gives them an 11-0 lead.

• Green Bay linebacker Anthony Davis intercepts Damon Huard with under a minute left in the first half.

• Three plays later, Hasselbeck hits Bill Schroeder with a 27-yard touchdown pass. A two-point conversion makes the score 11-8.

• A 21-yard pass from Craig Erickson to tight end Ed Perry leads to another Mare field goal on the Dolphins' first possession of the second half.

• The Packers answer with a 69-yard drive capped by Hasselbeck's 18-yard touchdown pass to Basil Mitchell.

• After stopping the Dolphins, Green Bay scores again, this time on a 45-yard pass from Aaron Brooks to Mitchell.

• Erickson's 17-yard pass to Kantroy Barber gets the ball in Packers territory, but Barber fumbles and Green Bay recovers.

• The teams trade fourth-quarter field goals, making the score 25-17.

• The Dolphins' last drive ends when Chris Akins intercepts Erickson at the Packers 4-yard line.

what they said...

• *"Our front-line players played very well. We made plays on both sides of the ball."*

— Coach Jimmy Johnson

• *"It's like we take two steps forward, and ... it's boom, one, two, three, four and five steps backward. It's hard on the team, but we have to have people step up. We're professionals."*

— Cornerback Sam Madison on the Dolphins' injuries

• *"I think everybody around here is extremely happy that preseason is over with and we can start playing games that count."*

— Johnson

THE STARS

OLINDO MARE
5-for-5 on field goals, long of 41 yards

DARYL GARDENER
3 tackles, 2 for loss, one for no gain

LORENZO BROMELL
6 tackles, 1 sack for minus-5 yards

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN '99

MIAMI DOLPHINS

• Need one more win for the 300th regular-season victory in franchise history. Miami enters 1999 with a composite record of 299-193-4.

KARIM ABDUL-JABBAR

• If he leads the team in rushing, would become just the second player in club history to lead the team in rushing four straight seasons. Larry Csonka did it from 1970-74.

• With 2,968 career rushing yards, he stands in the fifth spot on the team's all-time list. With 576 more yards, he would overtake Tony Nathan (3,543) for fourth. With 677 more yards, he would surpass Jim Kiick (3,644) for third. With 910 more yards, he would move past Mercury Morris (3,877) for second.

TRACE ARMSTRONG

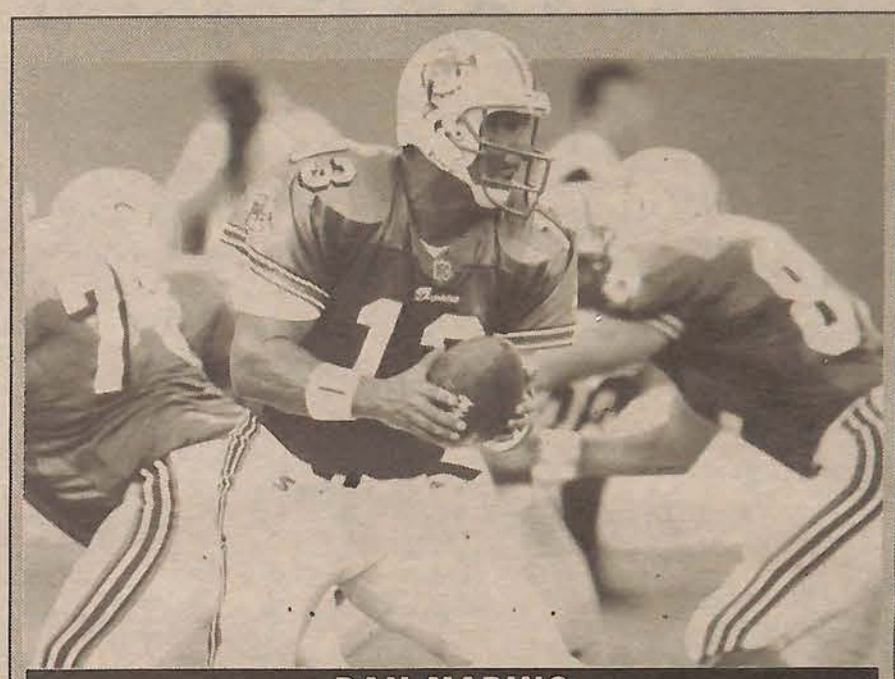
• With 32.5 career sacks as a Dolphin, Armstrong is ninth on the Dolphins' all-time chart. With three more, he would surpass Manny Fernandez (35.0) for eighth. With 6.5 more, he would overtake A.J. Duhe (38.5) for seventh. With 7.5 more, he would move past Bob Baumhower (39.5) and Kim Bokamper (39.5) into fifth.

TIM BOWENS

• Can extend his streak of consecutive games played and started to 78.

TERRELL BUCKLEY

• With 19 career interceptions as a Dolphin, stands in the ninth spot on the team's all-time list. With four more, he would surpass Curtis Johnson (22) and Tim Foley (22) for seventh. With five more, he would overtake Gerald Small (23) for sixth. With six more, he would move past Louis Oliver (24) and William Judson (24) into fourth.



DAN MARINO

• Can extend his consecutive-games-started streak of 41, the third-longest such streak among active NFL quarterbacks (Green Bay's Brett Favre, 109; Tampa Bay's Trent Dilfer, 64).

• Needs 1,087 passing yards to reach the 60,000-yard mark for his career. He enters 1999 with 58,913 career passing yards.

• Needs 11 more pass attempts to attain 8,000 in his NFL career. He enters 1999 with 7,989 attempts.

• Needs 237 more completions to reach 5,000 for his career. He enters 1999 with 4,763 completions.

• Needs seven more victories to record the 149th win of his career and become the all-time winningest quarterback in NFL regular-season history, surpassing John Elway's 148 wins. He enters 1999 with a starting record of 142-87 during the regular season.

TROY DRAYTON

• Needs to play in eight more games to reach the 100 mark for his career. He has appeared in 92 regular-season contests.

DARYL GARDENER

• Enters the 1999 season having started in 43 straight contests.

KEVIN GOGAN

• Enters the 1999 season having played in 145 consecutive league games and having started in 97 straight.

TONY MARTIN

• With 37 or more receptions, would reach the 500-catch plateau for his NFL career during the regular season. He enters 1999 with 463 receptions.

• With 913 more receiving yards, would attain 8,000 for his NFL career. He enters 1999 with 7,087 receiving yards.

BROCK MARION

• Needs to play in 13 regular-season games to attain the 100 games-played mark in his NFL career.

O.J. McDUFFIE

• Enters 1999 having caught a pass in 62 consecutive games.

• If McDuffie leads the Dolphins in receiving in 1999, he would become just the second Dolphin to top the team's reception chart three or more straight seasons. Nat Moore did it six straight times (1974-79).

• With 358 career receptions, McDuffie stands in fifth place on the team's all-time list. With 26 more, he would move ahead of Tony Nathan (383) into fourth.

• With 4,415 career receiving yards, McDuffie is fifth on the club's all-time chart. With 120 more yards, he would surpass Duriel Harris (4,543) into fourth.

• With 27 career receiving touchdowns, McDuffie is fifth on the Dolphins' all-time list. With seven more, he would overtake Paul Warfield (33) for fourth.

ZACH THOMAS

• If he leads the team in tackles, Thomas would become just the third Dolphin to lead the team in tackles four or more straight seasons. Nick Buoniconti did it five consecutive seasons (1969-73), while Bryan Cox accomplished the feat four straight times (1992-95).

• With an interception return for a touchdown, Thomas would establish the club's all-time mark in that category. His three returns for scores currently are tied with Dick Anderson for the most in franchise history.

RICHMOND WEBB

• Has played in 135 regular-season games in his career. If he appears in all 16 games in 1999, Webb would tie Bruce Hardy (151) for 10th on the Dolphins' all-time list for games played.

Dolphin Fans, Make Your Next Road Trip ... A CRUISE VACTION

5th Annual Fans' Cruises

BILLS AT DOLPHINS - 4 Night Cozumel/Key West Cruise & Game Vacation - Sept. 30 - Oct. 5, 1999

JETS AT DOLPHINS - 3 Night Bahamas - Holiday Cruise & Game Vacation - Dec. 23 - 28, 1999

Take a Cruise then "SEA" the Game LIVE!

CRUISE AND GAME VACATION INCLUDES:
• 3 OR 4 NIGHT CRUISE ABOARD A CARNIVAL SUPER LINER
• SENSATIONAL ON BOARD MEALS & ENTERTAINMENT
• POST CRUISE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS
• FAN PARTIES AND GIFTS
• TICKETS TO DOLPHINS VS. BILLS OR JETS MONDAY NIGHT MATCH-UP IN SIZZLING MIAMI

IA - FLORIDA SELLER OF TRAVEL • #ST-30638

FROM $599.00 PER PERSON DOUBLE OCC

*PORT CHARGE ADDITIONAL • SHIP REGISTERED IN PANAMA
PRICES & PACKAGE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Thousands of NFL Passengers Travelled Annually

CRUISE FAN•ATICS
Your Sports & Entertainment Cruise Experts
The Original Cruise & Game Vacation Experts

1-800-954-FANS
FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS
www.cruisefanatics.com

MAIL ALL LETTERS TO: OVERVIEW, P.O. BOX 526600, MIAMI, FL 33152 OR FAX TO (305) 477-1346

Dear Overview:

As an obsessive Dolphins fan living in New England all my life, I take a lot of harassment by Patsies, Bills and Jets fans. Last year was no exception. Although we gave the Bills a well-deserved loss in the playoffs, we still let the Jets take the division. Ouch!

Miami should be able to conquer the AFC East during Marino's well-deserved run to the Super Bowl this year. However, I still question Johnson's decision not to "buy" an experienced back to ensure a lasting ground game well into January. We can only hope that "The Diesel" will be all we need to carry the team to the next level.

Best of luck, Dan. Nobody deserves a Super Bowl win more than you!

Peter Rozkuszka
Ware, Mass.

* * *

Dear Overview:

I can't believe all the criticism I'm reading about Shannon Sharpe in your publication. The man must be doing something right because I don't know of another player that has the profile of his face on the team helmet!!

Go Dolphins, clean up the mess you left in Denver in January and shut Mr. Ed up for good.

Bud Beckens
Sodus, N.Y.

* * *

Dear Overview:

I am looking forward to this upcoming season, but once again the injury bug has struck. This time to our best running back, Cecil Collins. He is the hope for the running game.

Jimmy, I have a suggestion for you for those short-yardage runs: FULLBACK. Give the ball to the fullback because it is obvious that Karim cannot run the ball in those situations (Detroit game proved that, as did past games). I truly believe that this team can win the Super Bowl this year, but unless the running game really improves, this team will not go very far — even if they have all the top wide receivers in the league on the team.

Andrew D'Agostino
Branford, Conn.

* * *

Dear Overview:

After reading the letter from Mike Wilkinson from Nice, Calif., I am compelled to respond to his statements. Yes, Mike, you are correct, stating that we need more competition at quarterback. Marino would definitely benefit from some competition. Although there are very few QBs out there that could take his job.

As far as your statement regarding Marino not being a superstar, you are way off base. Just look at Dan's career. He could lose every game this year but would still be a superstar. He is not only a great QB, but also a star off the field. Even though he has no ring.

You also stated that Marino is not a dominating player. Well, you got this one right. This is football, not tennis. Domination is only achieved when the TEAM works as a machine. But be sure of this, Marino is the leader of the offense.

Next, consistency. I agree all players have off days; Marino has had very few. Thanks for giving us a chance at the Bowl. Even with Danny on the field.

We have a lot of Dolfans here in the Upstate of South Carolina. When the Fins played Carolina last season, there were more Dolphins fans at the game than were there for the home team.

John A. Valdes
Campobello, S.C.

* * *

Dear Overview:

I've been a subscriber to *Dolphin Digest* for many years, and each and every year your publication has improved.

Even though I am in "Titan" territory, the general consensus about the Dolphins is one of optimism. With all the offseason moves made via the free-agent market and draft, a lot of people — and some major publications — are predicting the Dolphins to be in the Super Bowl.

With Dan the Man back at the helm, and the return of Tony Martin at wide receiver, the Dolphins are destined for greatness this season.

GO DOLPHINS! This die-hard Dol-Fan is behind you all the way!

Kevin Thomason
Columbia, Tenn.

* * *

Dear Overview:

Last year, I predicted a home-field Super Bowl for the Dolphins, and I still believe we would have had it if we didn't have a few key late-season injuries. But I just learned of Tony Martin's acquittal, so I can make a prediction of 13-3 and a Super Bowl ring for Dan the Man. Of course, this depends on no major injuries. I believe!

Vance Kosloff
Charlotte, N.C.

* * *

Dear Overview:

I've been a Dolphin fan for years and feel we have a very good chance of having a good season, but not one to win it all. There are too many pieces still missing. Such as a big-time receiver and a running quarterback. Why didn't we try to get Brian Griese? He would have been the perfect backup and future starter. Here again, another dumb move Miami makes.

I hope we can finally put it all together this year and Marino can finally wear the ring, but if it doesn't happen, here is a list of things that will happen in Dolphinland next season:

1. Marino calls it quits
2. Johnson retires ... this time for good
3. Team back to the drawing board
4. Coach of the Jets wins the Super Bowl, and Miami trades South Beach for him to coach the Fins.

Kevin Mason
Seaford, Del.

* * *

Dear Overview:

Let's get ready for football, Dolfans, electricity is in the air. You all know we have the defense; and on offense we have strengthened some areas of concern: the offensive line, the receivers and especially the running backs, where we have found a very special player in Cecil Collins.

My only concern is continuity on the offense, but if they come together, LOOK OUT!!!

Ruben Martinez
Hialeah, Fla.

* * *

Dear Overview:

I'm sick and tired of the so-called media experts claiming that Denver, Jacksonville and New York complete the top tier of AFC Super Bowl contenders. I feel that we are every bit as talented as any of these "big three."

We need to take care of business week by week and show the world that the '99 Dolphins are for real. No more excuses. The prize is there for the taking, but it won't be given to just anyone. Work hard, guys, and Atlanta becomes a reality.

Richard Butler
Mt. Laurel, N.J.

* * *

Dear Overview:

My predictions for this year? MIAMI and DAN THE MAN win the Super Bowl. Dan retires with a much-deserved ring. And for next year, a repeat performance in the Super Bowl, but with a familiar name at quarterback, BRIAN GRIESE!!!

Andrew L. Tetreault
Winchester, Va.

FAX LETTERS

Dolphins fans! Get your opinions to us right away. Fax your Overview letters to (305) 477-1346. Please remember to be brief. If you prefer to correspond by mail, send them to: P.O. Box 526600, Miami, FL 33152.

Marcia

Miami Dolphins Cheerleaders

Age: 21
Occupation: Student/executive assistant
Hometown: Miami
Marital status: Single
Years as Dolphins Cheerleader: Two
Favorite animal: Panther
Favorite song: "I Belong To You" - Brian McKnight
Favorite TV show: "X-Files"
Favorite food: Veal, Chicken Marsala

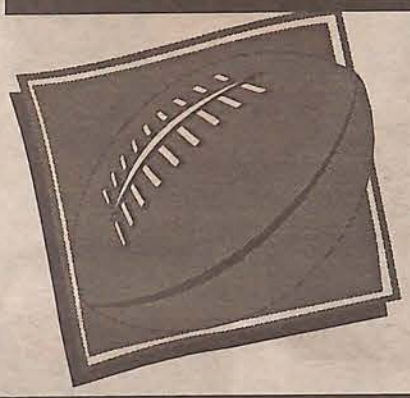
ANTONIETTE ROME
"Official Colorist"
305-666-9666

Maribelle
Day Spa
"Official Salon"

asics

THE WIZARD OF GRID PHONE SERVICE

GUARANTEES 60% WINNERS



FOUR DAYS OF WINNERS

★ Thursday Night ★ Saturday ★ Sunday ★ Monday Night

1-800-473-5503 PIN #24

THE WIZARD NETWORK PHONES OPEN:
★ 10 a.m. Saturdays ★ 11 a.m. Sundays
★ Monday Night Special — 5 p.m. ★

PRO FOOTBALL

Sun. Sept. 11★ Week 1

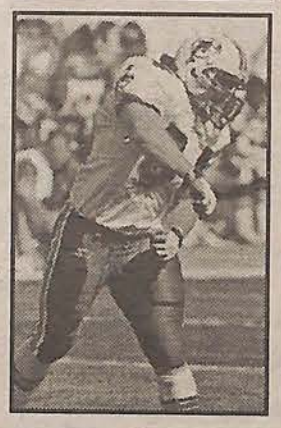
OPENING LINE
Las Vegas Hilton
Sports Book, Las Vegas

3 87 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS P-10:00AM C-12:00PM E-1:00PM 3 88 NEW YORK JETS	7				
3 89 OAKLAND RAIDERS P-10:00AM C-12:00PM E-1:00PM 3 90 GREEN BAY PACKERS	9				
3 91 DALLAS COWBOYS P-10:00AM C-12:00PM E-1:00PM 3 92 WASHINGTON REDSKINS	2½				
3 93 KANSAS CITY CHIEFS P-10:00AM C-12:00PM E-1:00PM 3 94 CHICAGO BEARS	3½				
3 95 BUFFALO BILLS P-10:00AM C-12:00PM E-1:00PM 3 96 INDIANAPOLIS COLTS	3				
3 97 CAROLINA PANTHERS P-10:00AM C-12:00PM E-1:00PM 3 98 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS	4				
3 99 ARIZONA CARDINALS P-10:00AM C-12:00PM E-1:00PM 4 00 PHILADELPHIA EAGLES	3				
4 01 CINCINNATI BENGALS P-10:00AM C-12:00PM E-1:00PM 4 02 TENNESSEE TITANS	8½				
4 03 BALTIMORE RAVENS P-10:00AM C-12:00PM E-1:00PM 4 04 ST. LOUIS RAMS	4				
4 05 MINNESOTA VIKINGS P-1:15PM C-3:15PM E-4:15PM 4 06 ATLANTA FALCONS					
4 07 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS P-1:15PM C-3:15PM E-4:15PM 4 08 JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS	4½				
4 09 NEW YORK GIANTS P-1:15PM C-3:15PM E-4:15PM 4 10 TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	5½				
4 11 DETROIT LIONS P-1:15PM C-3:15PM E-4:15PM 4 12 SEATTLE SEAHAWKS	9½				
4 13 PITTSBURGH STEELERS (N) P-5:20PM C-7:20PM E-8:20PM 4 14 CLEVELAND BROWNS ESPN	6				

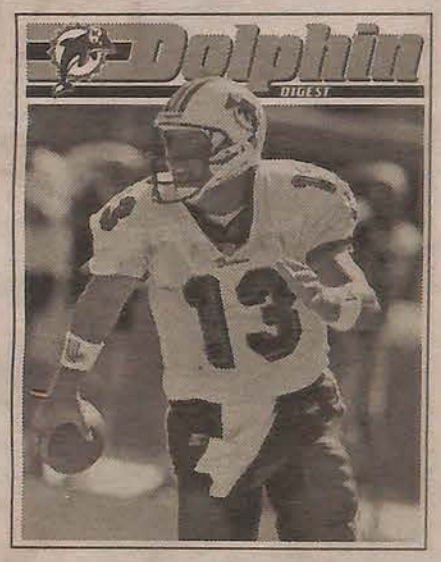
Monday, September 13, 1999

4 15 MIAMI DOLPHINS (N) P-6:00PM C-8:00PM E-9:00PM 4 16 DENVER BRONCOS ABC	6				

DEFINITELY DOLPHINS!



The Dolphins were again in the playoffs last season and are pumped to take it to the next level in '99. Follow the Dolphins back to the top in ***Dolphin Digest,*** the publication Dolphins fans have turned to for over 25 years. Published weekly August through January, plus four special offseason issues, ***Dolphin Digest*** offers the most comprehensive coverage available on the Miami Dolphins. And if you order now, you'll receive a **free official 1999 Miami Dolphins Media Guide!***



IN EVERY ISSUE:

- GAME COVERAGE
- ACTION PHOTOS
- TOP COLUMNISTS
- PREVIEWS & ROSTERS
- PLAYER FEATURES
- CHEERLEADERS
- AN EXCLUSIVE COLUMN BY HEAD COACH JIMMY JOHNSON

FREE GIFT!

Subscribe to Dolphin Digest before Sept. 15, 1999 and you'll receive a FREE copy of the official 1999 Miami Dolphins Media Guide*. In it you'll find:

- Player profiles & photos • Complete individual and team records
- Franchise history • '98 season in review and a '99 preview
- Player stats, team stats & more!

SUBSCRIBE NOW, SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED!

SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

Check one:
☐ 1 year (26 issues) - $42.95*
☐ 2 years (52 issues) - $71.95*
☐ 3 years (78 issues) - $99.95*
☐ Check here if renewal
☐ Send my subscription 1st class. (Additional $35.00 per year)
☐ Check here if renewal

Payment Method (check one)
☐ I enclose payment with order (check or money order) Fla. residents add 6½% sales tax
☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ DIS

Card No. _____
Exp. Date _____
Phone No. _____

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

*NOTE: Add $3.00 postage and handling per year if you wish to receive the Media Guide
Send to: DOLPHIN DIGEST • P.O. Box 526600, Miami, FL 33152-6600 DD

NOTE: Subscribers in Canada & Mexico please add $10.00 per year & pay in U.S. funds

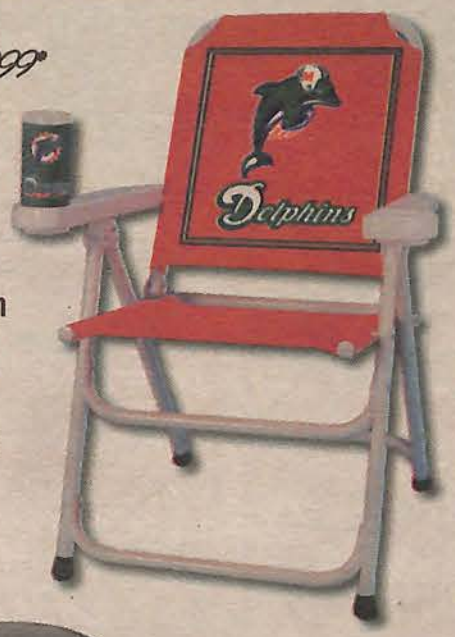
CREDIT CARD ORDERS TOLL FREE 1-800-334-4005 or FAX (305) 477-1346

NEW!

THE DOLPHINS TAILGATING COLLECTION

Ultra Light Folding Chair $59.99*

Lightweight and durable this new ultra light folding chair is perfect for tailgating or home. Features 1"aluminum powder coated frame, rust proof, 5 position backrest recliner, dual sized drink holder, pocket on back of chair and washable fabric with stain resistant finish. Tumbler *not* included.



40 Can Cooler $39.99*

Keeps drinks ice cold
Doubles as seat

Can Jam

All purpose container, toy chest, clothes hamper, waste basket-full of posibilities.

$28.99*

Dan Marino Q.B. Set of 2 Club Insulated Mug

Today's top players are displayed with a close-up photo on one side and a wide action shot on the other side. Double wall insulation helps maintain a constant serving temperature.

$19.99*

8 Pack Cooler

$28.99*

This personal cooler keeps drinks ice cold and doubles as an ice bucket.

Gridiron Grill

No party is complete without the barbecue going. This 14" kettle grill features an oversized team helmet cover treated with heat resistant paint to prevent discoloration.

$89.99*

Insulated Hammered Steins Set of 4

Get this set of 4 insulated 16oz. steins with your team's logo. Great for hot and cold beverages.

$24.99*

Team Helmet Umbrella

Provides shelter from the rain and shade from the sun. Comes in team helmet color and graphics for great looking fun.

$19.99*

CREDIT CARD ORDERS CALL 1-800-334-4005

OR SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO: CURTIS PUBLISHING • 8033 N.W. 36 ST. • MIAMI, FL 33166

	QUANTITY	AMOUNT EA.*	TOTAL
ULTRA LIGHT CHAIR:		$ 59.99	$
HELMET UMBRELLA:		$ 19.99	$
GRIDIRON GRILL:		$ 89.99	$
HAMMERED STEINS (SET OF 4):		$ 24.99	$
Q.B. CLUB MUG (SET OF 2):		$ 19.99	$
8 PACK COOLER:		$ 28.99	$
40 CAN COOLER:		$ 39.99	$
CAN JAM:		$ 28.99	$
SHIPPING & HANDLING (*SEE BELOW)			$
FLORIDA RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX			$
DOLPHINS		(INCLUDING SHIPPING & HANDLING) **TOTAL:**	$

*Add shipping and handling charges to each order as follows: Up to $60 add $7.95 • $60.01 to $100 add $12.95 • $100.01 to $150 add $14.95 $150.01 to $175 add $17.95 • $175.01 and over add $20.95 • *Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery • Continental U.S. Only*

☐ My check or money order payable to Sports Fan Products is enclosed.

☐ Charge to my ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Amex Expiration Date:_____

Card No._____

NAME:_____ CITY:_____ STATE:_____

ADDRESS:_____ ZIP:_____ PHONE:_____

SIGNATURE:_____ GIFT FROM:_____